ORIGINS OF

THE McINTURFFS

(McInturf/McEnturff/McEntarfer)

A SUPPLEMENT TO VOLUMES I AND II

BY RAYMOND L. KRINGER

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FOREWORD

"McInturff
Is it Scotch? Irish?
Or is it of German origin?
Or possibly Swiss?"

Thus began Section I of Volume I of "The McInturffs" family history by this author.

There is no longer need for speculation. The question is answered. The true name and origin of the family have been found.

Though transformed to McInturff from its original spelling, the change made the bearer of the surname a Scot in name only. The family was of German heritage.

Accordingly, this Supplement to The McInturffs history is presented to update and supplant portions of the first two sections of Volume I and the first section of Volume II.

Research over a period of nearly two decades, continued after publication of Volume I in 1976 and Volume II in 1981, has culminated in the discovery of new records of the family in the Church Archives in Karlsruhe, Germany, and in church registers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

With this new information, previously known details could be placed in proper perspective. Now a coherent account of the family's background became possible.

Prior to the recent successful research in Germany it had been accepted as fact that the "McInturffs" and those of variantly-spelled surnames descended from the same progenitor who migrated to America from the Palatinate. That was a large area in earlier days, and until a more precise place of origin was determined the research into the family's roots continued to be fruitless.

A professional researcher in Germany was engaged after an advertisement placed by this author in 1978 in Familienkundliche, a genealogical publication in West Germany, produced no results. A similar ad placed in the same publication by the researcher two years later also was unavailing. (See photocopies of the ads on a succeeding page).

In later years, when checking Mannheim-Neckarau church records for another client, the researcher came across the family name Meckendörfer for the first time. Further research produced the results presented herein.

These discoveries prompted renewed research in America, and additional pieces of the jigsaw fell into place. Records of two early churches in the Philadelphia - Germantown area revealed many new facts.

Information came also from a manuscript, "The Altman Family," by the late Joseph M. Kellogg. Though never published, before his death, the book was microfilmed and is now preserved in the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Those who trace their ancestry to George and Catherine (Altman) "McEnterfer" might find the Altman account especially interesting.

Assistance was generously provided by Ruth B. Fleming, an Altman descendant, and by Ruth G. Hall, co-author of two family histories, "Perkins-Kammerer & Allied Families" and "DeTar & Allied Families."

Despite the new findings, a few gaps remain in the story of the early life of our immigrant ancestors in America. But such blanks in family accounts are not unusual. They are to be found in numerous family histories, leaving to speculation the paths followed in the migrations of our ancestors and the dates of these movements.

It is to be noted, of course, that "McInturff" is only one of the several cognomens extant today that derived from the Meckendorfer surname: McInturf, McEnturf, McEntarfer, McEndarfer, and perhaps others. Over the years since 1729, when Johannes "McInterfeer" came to America, more than 200 different spellings of the surname have been recorded.

Of necessity there is a considerable measure of duplication in this Supplement of information presented in the first two sections of Volumes I and II of the "McInturffs." This was done in order to place the new information in proper context. Thus, the reader will not be obliged to refer to one of those books to gain a full account of the family's early years in America.

Those who have acquired Volume I and Volume II will be able to pick up the ensuing account in those histories. Most descendants should find it reasonably easy to trace their ancestry back to a progenitor named therein.

Following the tracks of our Meckendorfer ancestor after he set foot on shore in Philadelphia has been a challenge. The quest has held my interest for almost 20 years. It is my hope this account will hold yours.

Raymond L. Kringer.

Familienkundliche Nachrichten

MITTEILUNGEN · LITERATUR · RUNDFRAGEN · EMPFEHLUNGEN

Anschrift der Schriftleitung: 8530 Neustadt/Aisch, Postfach 1340
(Kostenlose Lieferung für Mitglieder durch genealogische Vereine)

Liers, Lier o.ä. – Diese Familie in Berlin, Große Frankfurter Straße, wird gesucht. Ein Sohn hat sich als Musiker und Soldat in Straßburg und Umgebung im Jahre 1900/01 aufgehalten. Wer kennt diese Familie oder hat schon über Liers aus Berlin zw. 1850 und 1950 geforscht?
Alle Namensvorkommen **Hi(e)rling(er)** gesucht.
Bender, Boch, Frank, Heidt, Heim, Männing, Mieter, Sieg(e)le, Stolzenberger, Uffelmann, Wagner u. Zoller, alle in und um Karlsruhe. Wer hat diese in seiner AL?
Am Schützenplatz 4, 7630 Lahr.
Klaus Siefert

Meckendorfer (Mickindurfer, Meketerffer, Migendorffer u.ä.), Johannes und Ehefrau Vroni . . . kamen mit Schiff „Allen" von Rotterdam aus am 11.9.1729 nach Philadelphia. Mit ihnen kamen folgende Passagiere nach USA: Joh. Martin Christ, Hans Casper Kulp, Christian Kitsintander, Joh. Jakob Hopback, Mathias Schneider u.a. Sie könnten in Wittgenstein bei Schwarzenau (oder Schriesheim) gelebt haben. Wie lautet der richtige Name von Johann M. und der Geburtsname von Vroni NN? Wo lebte das Ehepaar? Weiter alle Daten, Eltern, Vorfahren und alles Nähere gesucht.
Antworten in englischer Sprache erbeten. Honorar nach vorheriger Vereinbarung.
16 Quinton Hill, St. Louis, Missouri 63 137, USA. Raymond L. Kringer

Benz-Borgwardt. – Wer kann Angaben über die Herkunft von Friedrich Benz und Maria Dorothea Borgwardt machen, die 1759 in der Leplower Kirche (Vorpommern) getraut wurden und in Behrenswalde wohnten? Angebote mit Honorarwünschen an
Schönblick 22, 6000 Frankfurt a. M. 56.
Günter Wesenberg

Schöppe. – Suche alle Vorkommen dieses Namens, besonders im Raum Halle/Saale. Wer hat unter seinen Vorfahren diesen Namen? Hinweise auf lebende Namensträger.
Stille, Johann Eskilsson, Bootsmann, * Asarum/Südschweden 21.11.1835; ∞ wo, wann? Sissa *Olsdotter*, * Allmundsryd 19. 2.1826. Wer kennt Vorfahren und Nachkommen? Unkostenerstattung selbstverständlich.
Finkenweg 73, 2054 Geesthacht.
Ulrich Schöppe

Nellis, Wilhelm, ∞ Maria Elisabetha. Söhne Wilhelm * 1694, Christian * 1697.
Sternberger, Jacob, * ca. 1665, ∞ Christina, Kd: Lamberg, * 1695: Catharina, * 1697, Jacob, * 1698; Adam, * 1704.
Außerdem:

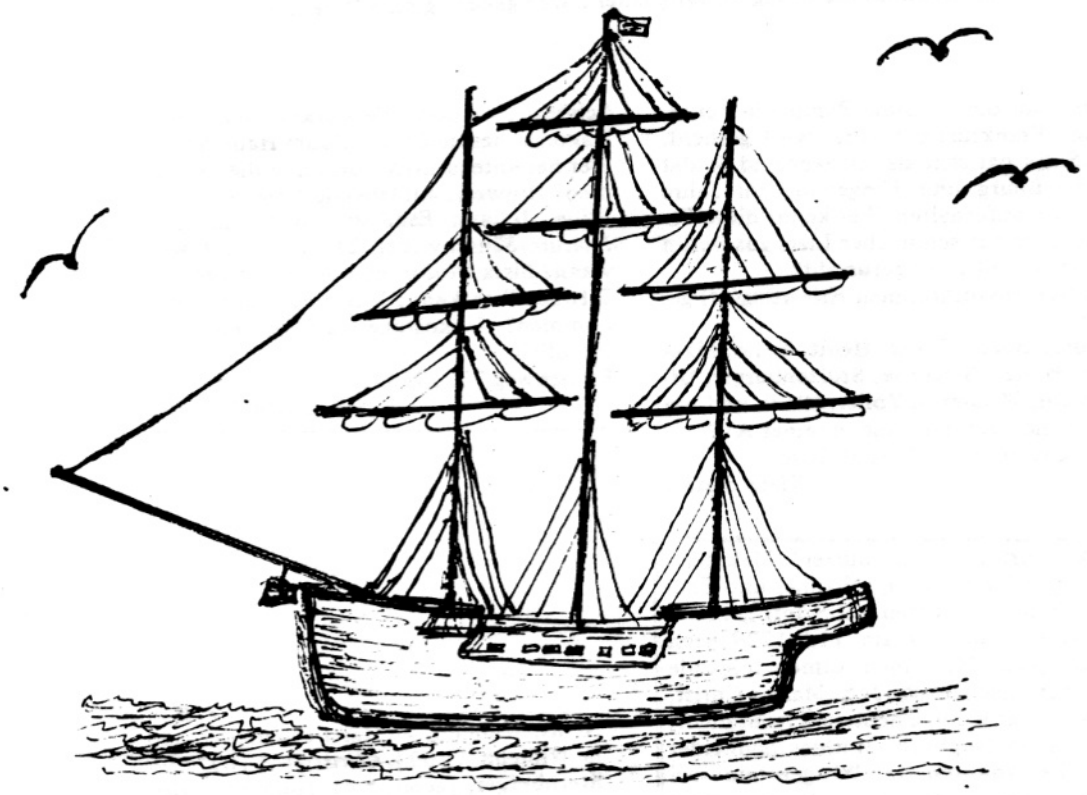
Meckendorfer (in USA Meinterfeer) (Muckendorffer, Mottingdorfer o.ä., auch Meddingdorfer?) ∞ Phronik (Veronica, Meindörfer?), * ca. 1700–1710; ∞ ca. 1725–1729, ausgew. USA 1729 m. „Allen" nach Philadelphia. Wie lautet der richtige Name von Johann M. aus Bayern? Umgebung Unterasbach-Teilenhofen?
Baumgartenstr. 32, 8150 Holzkirchen/Obb. Carla Mittelstaedt-Kubaseck

Wittmann, Kaltenecker. – Wer forscht über diese Familien? Wer hat Forschungsergebnisse? Einzelheiten und Honorar nach Absprache.
Rosenweg 8, 8480 Letzau.
Hans Wittmann

Queries published in Familienkundliche Nachrichten in Germany:

(1) By this author, Nov/Dec 1978, and
(2) By Carla Mittelstaedt-Kubaseck, a professional researcher, in 1981.

Neither query brought a response.



Dedicated To
Johannes Meckendörfer
and his many
Descendants, by Whatever Name

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ancestry

updated information

Hans Jorg (Hanß Geörg) Meckendörfer

BIRTH ABT. 1654 • Baden-Württemberg, Germany
DEATH ABT. 1715 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
8th great-grandfather

Timeline

Name
Hans Jorg (Hanß Geörg) Meckendörfer

Gender
♂ Male

Age 0 — **Birth**
Abt. 1654 • Baden-Württemberg, Germany

#1
Age 25 — **Marriage**
18 Feb 1679 • Neckarau, Baden, Germany

Elizabeth Burckle
1657–1693

#2
Age 39 — **Marriage**
11 Jul 1693 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

Ottilia Schaffer
1663–1699

#3
Age 46 — **Marriage**
11 May 1700 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Veronica "Phronick" Meiers ♥
1668–1731

Age 61 — **Death**
Abt. 1715 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

Age 61 — **Burial**
1715 • Germany

Relationships

Parents

Christoffel Meckendörfer
1632–1675

Anna Catharina Ebelin ♥
1633–1677

Spouse and children

Elizabeth Burckle
1657–1693

- **Anna Barbara Meckendörfer**
  1683–
- **Anna Ursula Meckendörffer**
  1687–
- **Eva Margaretha Meckendörfer**
  1688–
- **Elizabetha Meckendörfer**
  1693–

Spouse and children

Ottilia Schaffer
1663–1699

- **Johan Velter Meckendörfer**
  1696–1729
- **Anna Catharina Meckendörfer**
  1699–

Spouse and children

Veronica "Phronick" Meiers ♥ ★
1668–1731

- **Hans (Jans) Adam Meckendörfer**
  1701–1725
- **Johannes (Old John) Meckendörfer** ★
  1703–1779
- **Mattheus Meckendörfer**
  1705–1725
- **Anna Margaretha Meckendörfer**
  1708–1725
- **Anna Maria Meckendörfer**
  1710–1725

mother and son came to America in 1729

ancestry

Johannes "Old John" Meckendörfer ☆

BIRTH 26 APR 1703 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
DEATH ABT. JUN 1779 • Powell's Fort, Shenandoah County, Virginia
7th great-grandfather

Timeline

Name
Johannes "Old John" Meckendörfer ☆

Gender
Male

Age 0 — **Birth**
26 Apr 1703 • Neckarau, Mannheim, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany

aka John McInturff, John McEnterfer, John McEntaffer, etc.

Baptism
29 Apr 1703 • Mannheim-Neckarau, Baden, Preußen

His mother is listed as: Ottilia Meckendörfer - which is supposed to be the second wife of his father. Most likely a typo.

Age 22 — **Note:**
1725

His mother is Veronica "Phronick", and it is her that sailed to America with him. Old John had two wives: Dorothea Unk and Roseannah Kern.

Age 26 — **Departure**
7 Jul 1729 • Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

Source: Family Legacy Hamilton by William A. Hamilton (ETHC), Page 247 - Departed on the ship Allen under the command of Captain Craigie, Master. Passenger list includes 124 people from the Palatine region of the Holy Roman Empire (now Germany).

Age 26 — **Immigration**
11 Sep 1729 • Philadelphia

Phronick (a nickname for Veronica) is most likely his mother, not a wife.

Age 26 — **Arrival**
11 Sep 1729 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Source: The McInturffs, Kringer - The Allen sailed into Pt Philadelphia, after 10 wk voyage. No births, no deaths recorded at sea, all passengers certified to disembark. "Johannes McInterfeer" & "Phronik Mickinturfer" (source: personal copies)

Sources

Ancestry Sources

- Baden, Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1502-1985
- Global, Find A Grave Index for Non-Burials, Burials at Sea, and other Select Burial Locations, 1300s-Current
- Pennsylvania and New Jersey, U.S., Church and Town Records, 1669-2013
- Pennsylvania Naturalizations, 1740-73
- Public Member Trees
- U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s
- U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s
- U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s
- U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970
- Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1900

Web links

- Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1983
  https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9085/images/007644329_00628
- Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1983 f
  https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9085/images/007644329_00629
- "Old John" Johannes Meckendörfer (1703 - 1779)
  https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Meckendörfer-2
- Original 1779 will of John Macanturf including all children.
  https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-99PH-Z5TR?cat=1177645&i=628&lang=en

Age 31 — **Marriage**
Abt. 1734 • Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most likely three sons: Christopher, George, Casper. ?Along with a couple daughters: -Maria Dorothea b1734, married Georg Adam Schober, -Maria Elizabetha b1740, married Sabastian Ruber

Dorothea _____ ♥
1714–1750

Age 39 — **Naturalization**
13 Apr 1743 • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Traveled to the city to become a naturalized British citizen (renounced his home country of Germany) and ironically, his son George would renounce Britian and fight in the American Rev. War.

Age 49 — **Marriage**
23 Apr 1753 • Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

German Reformed Church of Germantown; six more children: John, Frederick, Daniel, Mary Clarey, David Kern, Margaret.

Maria Rosina "Roseannah" Laitenberger (Kern)
1720–1782

Age 57 — **Residence**
Abt. 1760 • Shenandoah County, Virginia

The last three children were born in Virginia.

Age 75 — **Residence**
Abt. 1778 • Shenandoah, Virginia

Age 76 — **Will**
25 Jun 1779 • Shenandoah County, Virginia

His will: wife, Roseannah; in order: two sons John and Fredrick all my lands... two sons Daniel and Divid 20 pounds (the old way as was in 1774)...two daughters Mary and Margret (cow/bed)..son Christopher 7 pounds...son Geore 7 pounds..son Gasper 7 pounds.

Age 76 — **Probate**
25 Jun 1779 • Shenandoah, Virginia, USA

He signed his will with a mark, "X"

Age 76 — **Death**
Abt. Jun 1779 • Powell's Fort, Shenandoah County, Virginia

He more that likely died shortly after his will was written.

Burial
1779 • Shenandoah Caverns, Shenandoah County, Virginia

Somewhere - but no grave survives.

Relationships

Parents

Hans Jorg (Hanß Geörg) Meckendörfer ☆
1654–1715

Veronica "Phronick" Meiers ♥
1668–1731

Spouse and children

Dorothea _____ ♥
1714–1750

- **Christoph (Stophel) McInturff**
  1744–1814
- **ENS George (Hans Jurg) McInturf (Meckendörfer)** ⚷
  1746–1822
- **Casper McInturff**
  1750–1808

Spouse and children

Maria Rosina "Roseannah" Laitenberger (Kern)
1720–1782

- **John McInturff**
  1754–1811
- **Frederick McInturff**
  1756–1816
- **Daniel McInturff**
  1756–1803
- **Mary Clarey Haun née McInturff**
  1760–1823
- **David Kern McInturff**
  1762–1845
- **Margaret Haynes née McInturff**
  1764–1836

THEIR TRUE IDENTITY

They boarded a tiny sailing vessel at Rotterdam to cross the Atlantic Ocean, destined for a faraway land. His name was Johannes and hers was Veronica.

On the passenger list of the ship Allen, his full name was written as Johannes McInterfeer, hers as Phronik Mickinturfer. For the next two and a half centuries their true identity and place of origin would remain unknown to most of their descendants and to researchers in America.

Family genealogists believed from the start that neither McInterfeer nor Mickinturfer was the true surname. Until recently the search for the original spelling went on without success.

Johannes and "Phronik" could not know their fate on the day they left their home to go to America; they could not know what future awaited them in a New World they had only heard about, provided they reached their destination safely.

It was not a mere adventure they set out on, not a trip of fixed duration, at the end of which they would return to the safe haven of home.

They were cutting their ties to their homeland, family and friends they would never see again. It would be a new beginning, in all likelihood the most drastic turning point in their lives that they would ever experience.

Johannes and Phronik were among 126 passengers on the Allen. All except a few of them were members of Alexander Mack's Church of the Brethren sect that emigrated from Germany by way of Holland.

Sometime toward the end of the voyage the ship's clerk was directed by the captain to prepare a list of the passengers. The clerk lined them up on the deck, men on one side, women on the other. Each passenger was asked to sign the register. Those who could write their names did so; some performed the task for their spouse.

The clerk set down the names of those unable to write their

signatures. Among the relatively few for whom the clerk did the signing were Johannes and Phronik McInterfeer/Mickinturfer. Phronik (sometimes Vroni) was a familiar or pet name for Veronica--like Maggie for Margaret.

The requirement that a passenger list be compiled by the captain of ships carrying immigrants to America was relatively new in 1729. Two years earlier the British Government had issued an order directing the captains of English vessels going to the colonies to make a list of their passengers--men, women and children--their occupations and the place from which they came. Few captains observed the requirement in full.

The Allen's captain, James Craigie, on arrival in the port of Philadelphia presented to port authorities a list of the men, women and "five children under age 15" aboard his vessel. He lumped their origins under one catch-all heading: "Palatines," and disregarded the requirement that occupations be set down--leaving us without a valuable bit of information.

Ships' clerks were unskilled in the task of registering the names of passengers in those early years. Generally, the English clerks did a better job of it than those of the few other countries that followed the practice.

When obliged to do the signing for a passenger the clerk wrote down the name as it sounded to him. More often than not the names were somewhat inaccurate, but usually a close approximation. Such was the case with Johannes and Phronik; the last name very likely sounded a bit different as it came from the lips of these two.

By German pronunciation, the letters d and t, and o and u, sound much the same to persons accustomed to English pronunciations. The Allen's English clerk came pretty close with "McInterfeer" and "Mickinturfer,"

Persistent research has now established that the surname was actually Meckendörfer.

(Note: In this book, except for the initial use ina few instances, the umlaut over the o, e and u will be omitted).

Based on the arrangement of the names on the separate lists of the men and women on the Allen, ~~researchers have concluded~~ that Johannes and Phronik ~~were husband and wife~~. mother and son

However, evidence of the family's origin found in the church records from Mannheim-Neckarau, Germany, raises a question about this determination. Elaboration of this matter will be taken up later.

The records, from the Gemeindeamt der Evang. Kirche, prove that Johannes "McInterfeer" was Johannes Meckendörfer, born in 1703, the son of Hans Jorg (Georg) Meckendorfer and his third wife, Veronica Meier. "PhroniK"

The church books, now deposited in the Evangelische Oberkirchenrat (Church Archives) in Karlsruhe, Germany, cover the period of 1651-1786.

Hans Georg's father was Christoffel Meckendörfer; his mother was named Anna Catharina (maiden name unknown). The birth date of Christoffel does not appear in the records because his birth occurred before 1651. He was married before 1655 and died between 1673 and 1677. His widow died 23 September 1677, the record shows.

The record of Hans Georg's first marriage identifies Christoffel Meckendörfer as his father. Following is the entry in the church book:

> Hanss Jörg Meckendörfer weyl. Christoffel Meckendörfer, sel. gew. Bürgers alhier hinterlassener Sohn und Elizabeth Bürcklin, weyl. Michael Bürckle, des Gernssheimer Gerichts u. gew. Bürgers alhier hinterlassene Tochter.

Hans Georg Meckendörfer, born about 1650-55, died 11 April 1715. He was married first on 18 February 1679 at Neckarau to Elizabeth Bürckle, daughter of the late Michael Bürckle, a court official at Gernsheim, 10 miles north of Mannheim. Elizabeth died between April and July 1693, possibly at the time of the birth of her fourth child, 26 April, or shortly thereafter.

The offspring of Hans Georg and Elizabeth Meckendörfer:

1. Anna Barbara, b 16 Sept 1683. Married 3 April 1717 to Joh. Georg Flohr, son of Peter Flohren.
2. Anna Ursula, b 23 Feb 1687.
3. (Eva) Margaretha, b April 1688. Married 24 Jan 1708 to Georg Leonh. Jückert, son of the late Georg Leonhardt Jückert of Mannheim.
4. Elizabetha, b 26 April 1693, confirmed 1708. Married 6 Sept 1717 to Matheus Schefelmeyer, widower, of Neckarau.

Hans Georg Meckendörfer was married second on 11 July 1693 in Neckarau to "virgin" Ottilia Schäffer(b 1663, died 5 Dec 1699), daughter of the late Hans Peter Schäffer of Mundenheim. Their offspring were:

1. Hans Velten, b 23 Sept 1696, confirmed 1710.Died 17 Feb 1729 at age 32 years 7 months.
2. Anna Catharina, b 4 Aug 1699.

Again it is to be noted that the mother, Ottilia, died the sameyear as the birth of her last child. She was 36 years old.

Hans Georg Meckendörfer was married for the third time, 11 May 1700, to Veronica Meier, daughter of Hans Meier from the Zurich region of Switzerland. Their offspring were:

1. Hans Adam, b 4 Sept 1701.
2. Johannes, b 29 April 1703, confirmed 1717. (Note: The pastor made an error in his entry in the church book, recording the mother of Johannes as Ottilia, instead of Veronica-- apparently unaware or forgetful of the fact that Hans Georg's second wife had died and he had remarried. Such errors by pastors were not uncommon, researchers say).
3. Mattheus, b 5 Aug 1705.

"Old John"

4. Anna Margaretha, b 15 July 1708, d 6 July 1717 at age 9.
5. Anna Maria, b 6 May 1710.

Hans Georg Meckendörfer was one of two sons and two daughters of Christoffel Meckendörfer. His sisters and brother were:

1. Anna Catharina, birth and death dates unknown. Married 5 Nov 1673 to Hans Strassheimer (or Strohheimer).
2. Eva Margaretha, birth and death dates unknown. Married 14 Nov 1682 to Peter Wunst, son of the late Niclasen Wunst, a court official.
3. Hans (Johann) Marten, b about 1645-50, died before 22 April 1728. Married first to Anna Elizabetha Wolfin (born Strohheimer), widow of Philip Wolfin. Anna Elizabetha was born in 1646 and died 18 Jan 1704, aged 57 years 6 months.

The offspring of Hans Marten and Elizabetha Meckendörfer were:

1. Anna Christina, b 7 Dec 1679, died in infancy.
2. Anna Christina, b 10 April 1681. Married 1708 to Hans Peter Weissmuller, son of Casper Weissmuller .
3. Anna Elizabeth, b 4 March 1683.
4. Anna Barbel, b 21 Sept 1684.
5. Hans Michel, b 3 Aug 1687, conf. 1699.
6. Hans Velten, b 18 Nov ~~1790~~ 1690.

Hans Marten Meckendörfer was married second on 19 May 1705 to Anna Maria Orth, widow of Hans Velten Orth. She died 22 April 1728, a widow, thus fixing the date of Hans Marten's death as prior to that date.

THE CENTURIES-OLD CHURCH RECORDS

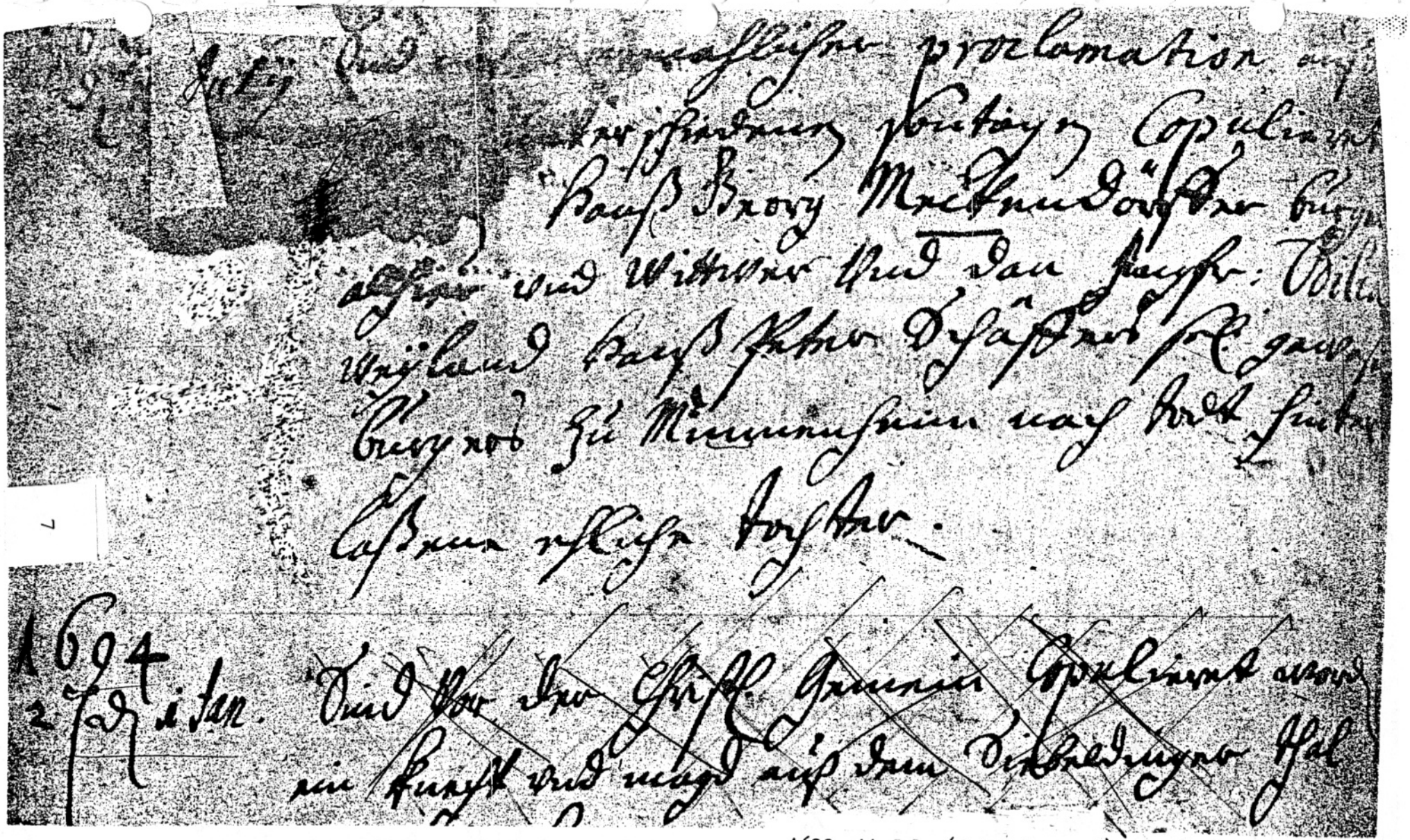
The photocopies of the church records reproduced on succeeding pages were made from microfilms of the original records in Germany and now on file at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Unfortunately the photocopying service was done carelessly, with the result that portions of the microfilmed pages were left off or obliterated.

The full detail of the contents, however, were taken from the original records at the Karlsruhe Archives and are presented in this Supplement.

The church records were written in Old German Script. The translation to English involved an intermediate step of transcription into modern German.

Both the German and English translations are given, with some parenthetical additions to clarify the information. In sequence, the records are of:

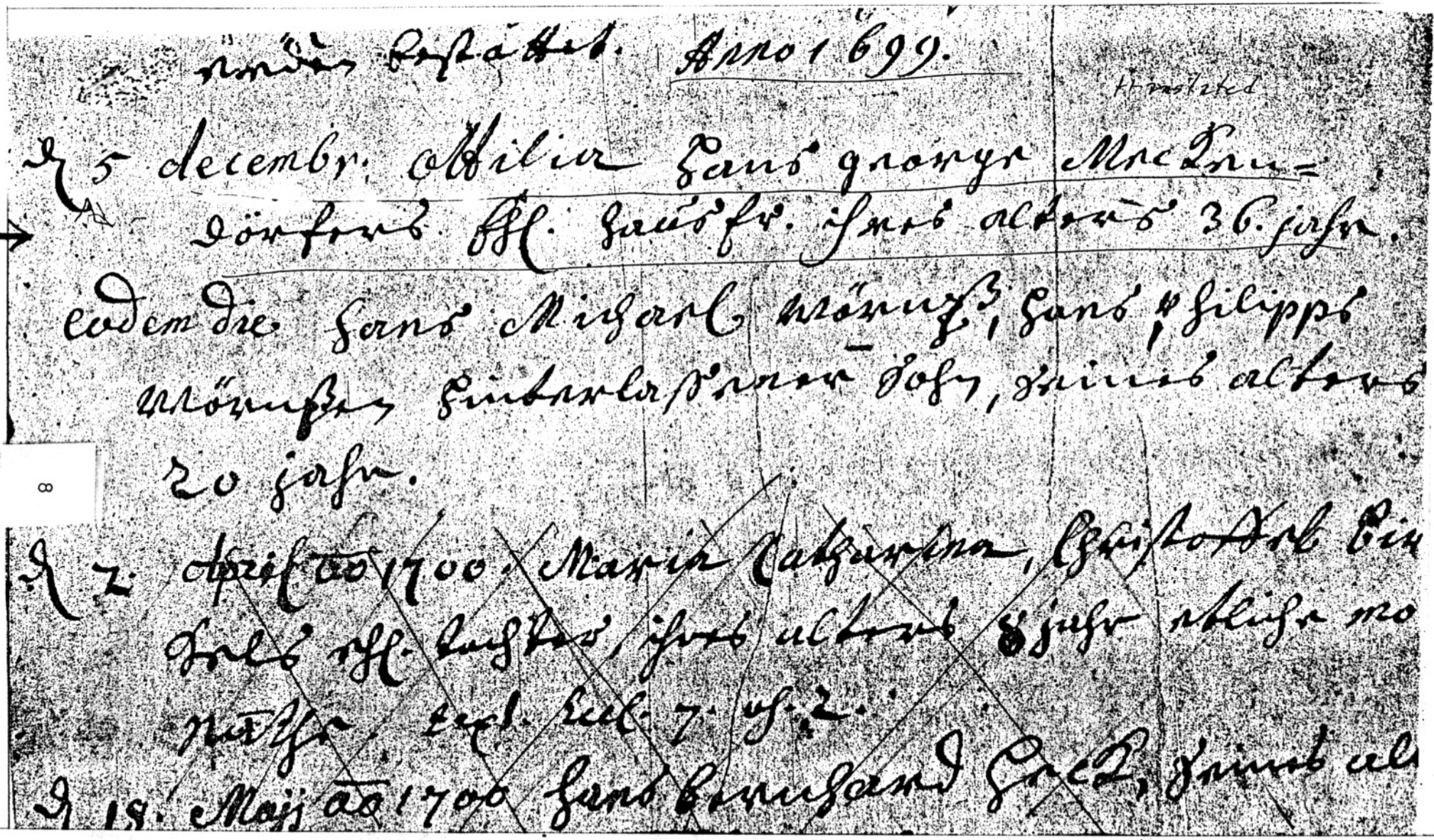
1. The second marriage of Hans Georg Meckendörfer, July 11, 1693.
2. The death of the second wife at age 36 in 1699.
3. The birth of Johannes Meckendörfer, April 29, 1703, son of Hans Georg by his third wife.



. . . . (obscured) . . . copulient Hanss Georg Meckendörfer, Burger alhier und wittwer, und die Jungfer Ottilia, weyl. Hanss Peter Schaffers sel. gewesne Burgers zu Minnenheim nach Todt hinterlassene eheliche Tochter.

1693, 11 July (date obscured)

. . Married Hanss Georg Meckendörfer, citizen here and widower, and the maiden Ottilia, the legitimate daughter of the late Hanss Peter Schaffer, deceased former citizen of Minnenheim, left behind after his death.

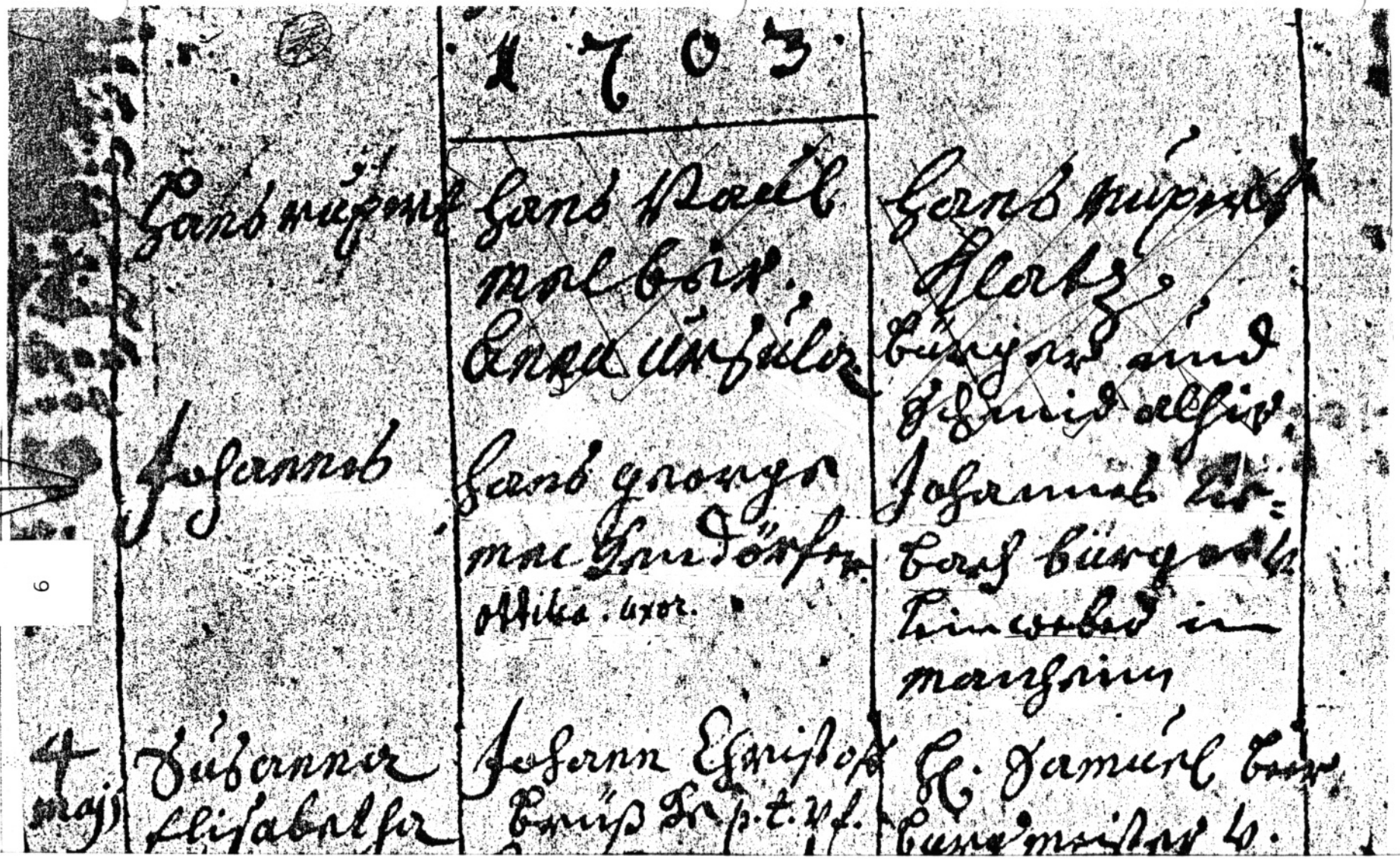


(CHURCH RECORD OF DEATHS)

Anno 1699

d 5 decembr Ottilia, Hanss Georg Meckendörfers eh(e)l(iche) Hausfr(au) ihres alters 36 jahr.

5th December Ottilia, Hanss Georg Meckendörfer's wedded wife, her age 36 years



29 April (date in first column obscured in poor photocopy)

Johannes | Hanss Georg Meckendörfer Ottilia uxor | Johannes Eisbach. Burger u. Leinnweben Mannheim

(Note: pastor mistakenly listed Ottilia as mother)

/

Johannes, son of Hanss Georg Meckendörfer, Ottilia, his wife. (Godfather) Johannes Eisbach, citizen and linen weaver in Mannheim

FAMILY BACKGROUND IN GERMANY

According to the researcher in Germany, the Meckendorfers lived "near Bergstrasse, from where also Alexander Mack (of Schriesheim) came." Berg is mountain or hill in German and strasse is street or road, but occasionally Bergstrasse was used as a town name. No such town can be found on maps of the Mannheim area, but many of the early towns disappeared in the 1600s.

The marriage records indicate the Meckendorfers lived in or near the village of Neckarau in the Mannheim Amtsbezirk (old county) of Baden and parish of Neckar. Neckarau at that time was about seven miles south of the city of Mannheim.

Schriesheim was around eight miles northeast of Mannheim and five miles to the north of Heidelberg. The present state of Baden-Wurttemberg is a combination of the former Kingdom of Wurttemberg, the Duchy of Baden and the Duchy of Hohenzollern.

Wurttemberg, once designated as Swabia and ruled by the Duke of Schwaben in the mid-1100s, is in the southwestern part of Germany. Bavaria is to the east and Baden to the west. Switzerland borders on the south. At that time, of course, there was no German nation, nor Switzerland as it exists today.

The Rhine River flows along the south and west sides of the region which came to be known as the Palatinate. The Black Forest is only a moderate distance to the east.

Up to about a century before the first recorded presence of a Meckendorfer, the Palatinate was part of the Holy Roman (German) Empire. It was ruled over for centuries by kings, dukes, counts and princes.

MAPS of the section of Germany in which the Meckendorfers lived are shown on Pages 12 and 13.

The parents of Christoffel Meckendorfer (born in the early 1600s) were living in the late 1500s.

These were times of great turmoil in Europe, which was torn by religious and political strife.

Queen Elizabeth I held the throne of Great Britain from 1558 to 1603. In that long period England and the Continent were wracked by numerous wars as kings and dukes sent their soldiers to battle for turf and power.

Among these conflicts was a war between England and Spain; the English triumphed with the Defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588.

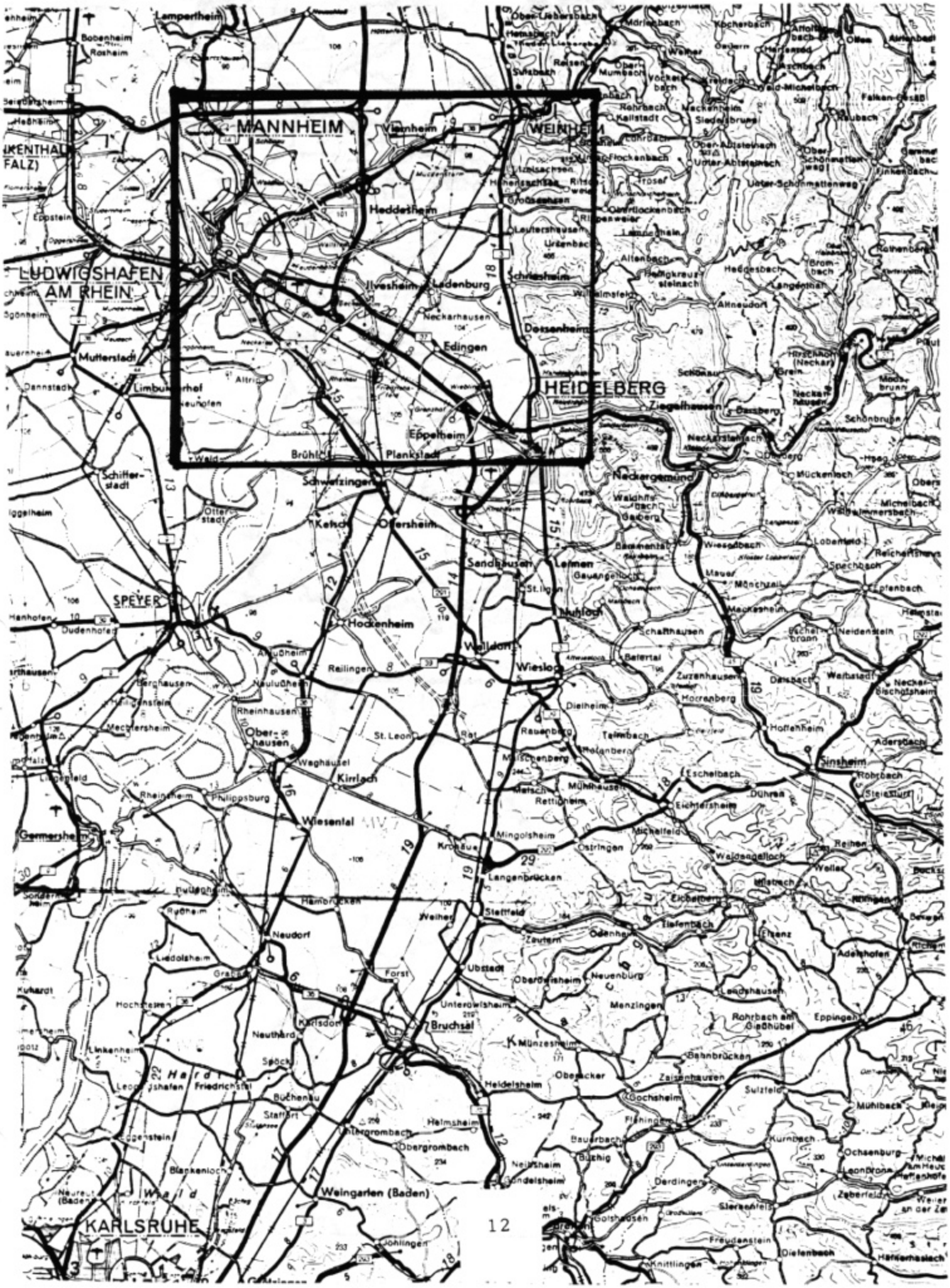
The most notable of the wars, as far as the Meckendorfers were concerned, was the Thirty Years War, as will be seen later in this account.

But there were events of a peaceful nature. Sir Francis Drake completed his three-year voyage of exploration around the globe in 1580. The British Colony of Virginia was founded at Jamestown in 1607 by John Smith, and the Pilgrim Fathers made their historic landing at Plymouth in 1620. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced in 1582.

How long the Meckendorfers had lived in the Mannheim-Neckarau region before the 1600s is unknown. It is probable that they migrated there decades earlier, but where they originated can only be speculated.

There is a fair possibility that they came from the region that later became a part of the Swiss Confederation. In the 14th and 15th centuries many villages in the German-inhabited section of Switzerland had 'dorf' in their names.

There were a few towns said to have been named Muckendorf in the 1000-1100 period in Germany and perhaps in Switzerland, and this was the time in history that surnames were coming into use. As will be noted, many villages were destroyed in the course of the Thirty Years War, and some were replaced by new ones with new names.


MANNHEIM
WEINHEIM
LUDWIGSHAFEN AM RHEIN
HEIDELBERG
SPEYER
KARLSRUHE
Lampertheim
Bobenheim
Rosheim
Viernheim
Hemsbach
Weinheim
Hirschberg
Heddesheim
Ilvesheim
Ladenburg
Neckarhausen
Dossenheim
Edingen
Mutterstadt
Limburgerhof
Eppelheim
Brühl
Plankstadt
Schwetzingen
Schifferstadt
Ketsch
Oftersheim
Sandhausen
Leimen
Nußloch
Hockenheim
Walldorf
Wiesloch
Reilingen
Neulußheim
Altlußheim
Rheinhausen
Oberhausen
Mechtersheim
Waghäusel
Kirrlach
Rheinsheim
Philippsburg
Wiesental
Germersheim
Rülzheim
Hambrücken
Neudorf
Weiher
Stettfeld
Langenbrücken
Mingolsheim
Ostringen
Bruchsal
Untergrombach
Obergrombach
Helmsheim
Heidelsheim
Weingarten (Baden)
Neureut (Baden)
Blankenloch
Stutensee
Graben
Linkenheim
Hochstetten
Karlsdorf
Neuthard
Spöck
Leopoldshafen
Friedrichstal
Buchenau
Stafflort
Liedolsheim
Forst
Ubstadt
Oberderdingen
Neuenbürg
Menzingen
Unteröwisheim
Münzesheim
Obersacker
Zaisenhausen
Bahnbrücken
Rohrbach am Gießhübel
Eppingen
Leudishausen
Sulzfeld
Gochsheim
Flehingen
Bauerbach
Büchig
Kürnbach
Ochsenburg
Leonbronn
Derdingen
Zeberfeld
Sternenfels
Freudenstein
Knittlingen
Dietenbach
Hohenhaslach
Ittlingen
Gölshausen
Neibsheim
Jöhlingen
Ettlingen
Dudenhofen
Otterstadt
Altrip
Neuhofen
Limburgerhof
Ziegelhausen
Schönau
Neckargemünd
Mückenlach
Gaiberg
Waldhilsbach
Wiesenbach
Lobenfeld
Spechbach
Mauer
Mönchzell
Meckesheim
Schatthausen
Balzental
Zuzenhausen
Daisbach
Horrenberg
Dielheim
Rauenberg
Tairnbach
Malschenberg
Malsch
Rettigheim
Mühlhausen
Eschelbach
Eichtersheim
Michelfeld
Weidenselloch
Hoffenheim
Sinsheim
Rohrbach
Steinsfurt
Dühren
Reihen
Weiler
Ittlingen
Eichtersheim
Eschelbach
Zeutern
Odenheim
Tiefenbach
Ehrenz
Adelshofen
Leudishausen
Menzingen
Rohrbach am Gießhübel
Eppingen
Bahnbrücken
Zaisenhausen
Sulzfeld
Gochsheim
Flehingen
Bauerbach
Büchig
Kürnbach
Ochsenburg
Leonbronn
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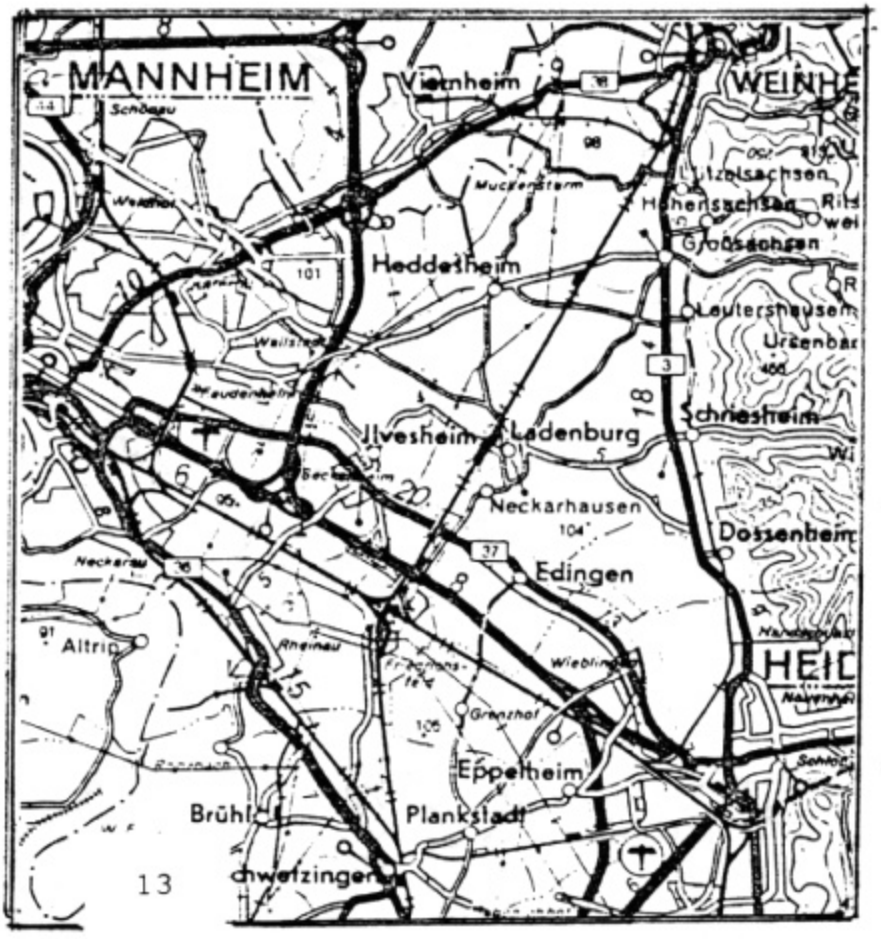


ABOVE: Map of western portion of German Empire before 1918 showing kingdoms, duchies and provinces, with bordering countries.

PAGE AT LEFT: The part of Baden-Wurttemberg in which Mannheim, Neckarau and Karlsruhe are located.

AT RIGHT: Enlargement of area of Mannheim/Neckarau within square marked on map shown on page at left.

The Mannheim-Neckarau church records go back only to 1651, three years after the end of the Thirty Years War. To find any earlier dates for the Meckendorfers would entail very extensive and costly research with slim chance of success.

The church records in the Palatinate often have big gaps because of the upheavals of war and invasion. When the people fled for their lives the pastor fled too, and not always with the cherished church books in his possession. Many of the books were lost or destroyed, some by persons of rival faiths.

The derivation of Meckendörfer as a surname is fairly easy to determine.

'Dorf' is village in the German language; dorfer is one who resides in the village. A name frequently was bestowed on a town because of a special characteristic of the locale. The German word mucke (with umlaut) is translated variously as fly, gnat, mosquito. Combined with dorf, the surname becomes Muckendorfer--that is, one who came from a village or community known for its gnats, flies or mosquitos. The change to Meckendörfer would follow.

The almost constant contention and conflict, religious as well as political, disrupted the lives of everyone in this era, and in many cases had a profound influence in shaping their destinies.

As most of Europe flourished during the Renaissance following the grim Middle Ages, a tragic episode in the lives of the German peoples left effects that lingered for generations. What was to become the nation of Germany two centuries later was the battleground of the Thirty Years War, a conflict in large part between Catholic and Protestant armed forces seeking supremacy, but complicated by a struggle for power between the Bourbons of France and the Hapsburgs of Germany. The war lasted from 1618 to 1648.

Both sides committed unspeakable horrors against those they accused of "heresy." Whole families--men, women and chil-

dren--were tortured and murdered in barbaric fashion. It is hard for us today to comprehend, or even imagine, the cruelties inflicted in the name of Christian faith.

Cities and villages were leveled to the ground. Homeless people hid in the forests to escape their tormentors. Horses and cattle all but disappeared and tilling of the fields became impossible in many areas. Schools and workshops were destroyed as violence and pillage raged uncontrolled. Starvation took its toll, too, with means of livelihood cut off.

The degradtion of the human spirit and conscience that resulted from this assault against decency and morality could not soon be repaired. Accounts of the bestialities told to later generations by those who suffered through it all left a traumatic legacy that influenced German behavior for many decades thereafter.

After 1648, when the war was officially terminated by the Treaty of Westphalia, trade slowly resumed, crafts were revived, homes rebuilt and the soil tilled once more. But it took a long time and great effort to erase fear and suspicion and restore normal living.

The Palatinate had scarcely recovered when King Louis XIV of France sent his armies into the region in 1689. The invaders destroyed the rebuilt villages, farms, vineyards and homes once more. The occupation ended after the defeat of the French by English and allied forces in the Battle of Blenheim in 1704.

Before the Thirty Years War the Renaissance had brought a break with Medieval institutions and thought, as well as significant changes in political, social and cultural life. The German states were sharing in this change for the better.

The ravages of war, starvation and oppression virtually ruined the middle class and decimated the peasant class. According to some historians the population of the German states fell from 16,000,000 to 4,000,000, a figure that may or may not

be correct.

Available records offer few clues to the socio-economic status of the Meckendorfers. How they fared during the Thirty Years War will never be known.

The only positive hints about their place in society in the late 1600s and early 1700s are to be found in the church records. Some entries in these books describe Christoffel Meckendorfer and his two sons, Hans Georg and Hans Marten, as "Gemeinsmann." This can be translated as citizen of the lower class, or simply as ordinary citizen. Then, in the record of Hans Georg's first marriage it is stated that his bride was the daughter of a court official. Some have interpreted this to mean that the bride's father was a judge, but that is doubtful.

So, all we know is that a man of the lower rank married a court official's daughter. But this suggests that Hans Georg was not on the bottom rung--that is, in the lowest peasant class, which constituted the bulk of the population.

Possibly the Meckendorfers were among the so-called "free peasants," who owned small plots of land and sometimes had occpations or positions above those of lower rank. However, their economic level would have been only a little higher than that of persons who lacked freedom from an overlord.

That the Meckendorfers were people of the soil is indicated by the fact that they turned to the land for a living when they sought to establish themselves in the New World.

Nearly all peasants resided on manors; that is, large estates owned for most part by the nobility. Some estates, however, were the property of the Catholic Church prior to the Reformation when they were seized by Protestants. A few "free towns" also owned land that was worked by peasants.

All landlords--be they nobility, abbots, bishops or whatever--demanded obedient service and hard work, as well as fees and rents from their peasants, whose liberties were sharply limited. The people lived a hand-to-mouth existence, relying solely on what they could grow and fashion for themselves.

Despite their lowly status and harsh treatment, the German peasants are to be credited with ingenuity, creativeness, indomitable spirit and self-reliance in working with what little they had. From wood they fashioned farm tools such as plows, rakes, forks and yokes; they carved household utensils, spoons, bowls, platters, baskets and other articles of everyday use. They spun wool and tanned leather for clothing, made candles for lighting. Some learned to be carpenters and tinners.

Most villages had a pastor and a man who filled the role of teacher. Some peasants learned to read and write, but certainly only a minority did. Seemingly, Johannes Meckendorfer was one who did not.

When these peoples emigrated to America by the thousands, many of them to Pennsylvania, they took with them the attributes of character forged in a crucible of oppression and deprivation. It was these qualities that proved to be a valuable contribution to the rapid growth and development of the lands they settled. They were the "Pennsylvania Dutch," often maligned in the early days but now given some of the credit they deserved.

Although the Treaty of Westphalia brought an end to the open warfare and physical devastation in Germany, it did not halt the religious upheavals and aftershocks of the Reformation. New sects proliferated and "dissenters" from the state-approved faiths were often dealt with harshly by the rulers of the various domains.

In Switzerland, Pastor Ulrich Zwingli followed Martin Luther in pressing for church reforms. Indeed, he claimed to have preached such doctrines in 1516, a year before Luther nailed his Theses to a church door. Zwingli was killed in 1531 in an armed clash between his Protestant forces and their Catholic opponents in the Zurich region, from which Veronica (Meier) Meckendorfer's parents came.

Some of Zwingli's adherents came to be called Taufers, Tunkers and Dunkards (the latter in derision by the English)

because of their beliefs and practices in the matter of baptism. These Anabaptists preferred the name German Baptist Brethren.

An offshoot of this sect got the name Mennonites, named for one of the leaders, Menno Simon. The Mennonites were persecuted in Switzerland, in the Zurich and Bern regions, and forced to leave. Hundreds of them found haven in the lower Rhine region of Germany.

The city of Krefeld became a center of their activity. A large percentage of the displaced Mennonites were linen weavers.

Some of the Mennonites came under the influence of the Taufers, or Church of the Brethren. In 1708, Alexander Mack, born at Schriesheim, a not-distant neighbor of the Meckendorfers, assumed the leadership of a group that broke away from the Mennonites. He organized his flock at Schwarzenau in Wittgenstein, Westphalia. The Count of Wittgenstein was tolerant of the sect but his overlord, The King of Prussia, was not. The king pressured the count to get rid of Mack and his congregation.

After about 12 years at Schwarzenau Mack took his group to a village near Leeuwarden in the extreme northwest of Holland--a long way from Mannheim-Neckarau.

As word of the misery of the people in the Palatinate spread, Queen Anne of England offered unlimited asylum to all distressed Germans who wished to migrate to the British colonies in America.

Johannes Meckendorfer was only five years old when Mack organized his group. He was 14 when he was confirmed in the Evangelical (Reformed) Church in 1717, three years before Mack left Germany. There is no evidence that Johannes ever became a member of the Brethren church.

Political and economic conditions, as well religious influences, undoubtedly played a part in his decision to go to America. As with others, a chance for freedom--free land as

well as religious and civil freedom--was a major consideration.

Agents of William Penn circulated through the Palatinate in the early 1700s seeking colonizers. Penn himself visited Germany three times, offering land and religious freedom in the Penn Colony, later to become Pennsylvania. Soon, thousands were taking advantage of the offer and streaming to the New World.

It is said that Mack got word in Holland of the first colony of Brethren in Pennsylavnia, established in 1719. He determined to go there. His flock was growing, possibly including some adherents who followed him from the Schriesheim area.

EMIGRATION TO AMERICA

A great amount of research has been done to determine the origins and identities of the Allen's passengers. One such effort, known as Project Palatine, has produced a list of immigrants in the early 1700s and the ships on which they arrived in America. The list is the work of Charles M. Hall, researcher, author and lecturer, of Salt Lake City, Utah.

His first edition of the Palatine Pamphlet accounts for some of those aboard the Allen, but does not give any of their names; it records the number of persons and number of families by place of origin.

According to this compilation, only one family came from Wurttemberg; from Bereit, which Hall states probably was Breitenfeld. One family was from Krefeld; one from Basel, Switzerland; two from Wittgenstein in northern Westphalia. Four other families and one individual were from Rheinland-Pfalz.

It has been established that not all of those who embarked on the Allen were Brethren and of Mack's flock. A letter to this writer many years ago from the Church of the Brethren headquarters stated that "our researcher reports that she is inclined to think that Johannes McInterfeer was not a member of Alexander Mack's group . . . She has been unable to find this man on any of the membership lists available to us."

Many questions about the Allen and its passengers are still unanswered. When and how did these emigrants gather and make their way to Rotterdam to board the vessel?

Unlike those of Mack's followers who had fled with him to Holland, Johannes and Veronica Meckendorfer probably were still in the Mannheim-Neckarau area when they made their decision to go to America.

As with many other emigrants from the Baden-Wurttemberg section at that time, their long journey to the New World had to start with a boat trip down the Rhine to Rotterdam--

and that was enough to discourage all but the very determined. There were more than 20 custom houses on the Rhine, and at each one all ships had to stop for inspection. Agents pawed over each passenger's belongings as well as through the ship's provisions. Fees were exacted, and on occasion passengers' possessions were pilfered.

The river trip took from four to six weeks; today it takes only a few days.

When the vessels carrying emigrants reached Holland they were detained for weeks more. Often the people arrived in Rotterdam without any knowledge of when or how they would be able to secure passage to America. The wait to get aboard a ship often took five or six weeks--another test of courage and stamina, as well as being costly.

The ship owners sometimes forced passengers with trunks or other bulky and heavy articles to leave them behind--"takes too much space on the ship," was the explanation. But it was not unusual for the ship owners to sell these items for their own profit. Whether the Allen's owner followed this practice is not known.

The date of the Allen's departure from Rotterdam is not recorded; it probably was in late May in 1729. Being an English ship it was required to put in at an English channel port before heading out across the ocean. It stopped at Cowes on the Isle of Wight off the southeast coast of England, there to comply with the formalities of customs clearance, provisioning and other vital preparations for the long and hazardous voyage that lay ahead. How long the ship stayed at Cowes is unknown, but the minimum time was about two weeks for such vessels.

Captained by James Craigie, the little ship set sail from Cowes on July 7. Efforts to find a log of the trip have been unsuccessful.

The voyage was a harrowing experience. One hundred and twenty-six men and women passengers plus crew were cooped up for weeks in little more space than is enjoyed by one family today

in a fair-sized two-story house. Sanitary facilities were primitive. Eating and sleeping aboard the rolling and pitching "houseboat" were an ordeal.

Enduring the inescapable togetherness on deck and in the small hold was enough to try the forbearance of even the most tolerant. There was the unrelenting tedium of a day-after-day routine that could vary only slightly. Daily prayers and Bible discussions filled many hours, it is safe to say.

A few lasting friendships probably formed, but for most part the Allen's passengers would never see one another again after they settled into their separate niches in America.

In his "History of the Tunkers and Brethren Church," Henry R. Holsinger wrote that the passengers "had a boisterous voyage lasting 71 days."

Providing food and fresh water for the passengers and crew on immigrant ships was no small achievement. Often the passengers on these voyages had to take along some of their own provisions to supplement the meager fare furnished by the ship owners. Hunger and a few cases of starvation are known to have occurred.

It was not until September 11, 1729, that the Allen finally sailed into the port of Philadelphia.

This was a memorable day in the lives of those men and women as they set foot on firm land after 10 weeks aboard the little vessel. Undoubtedly there were mixed feelings of relief, joy and sadness.

There was no turning back now; it was farewell to their old world. They faced a new life in a strange world--the New World--with great hope and anxiety.

Apparently all those who boarded the Allen at Rotterdam reached these shores. No deaths were recorded at sea, and no births, as was the case on some ships.

Before any of them were permitted to leave the ship all of the immigrants had to be examined by a doctor. Any found to be ailing were sent back to where they came from. The record does

not show that anyone on the Allen failed to be certified to disembark. The passenger list included five children under 15, none by the name Meckendorfer.

Babes in arms were seldom listed by any ship captains, and it is not known whether any were aboard the Allen. This could be of importance in our family record.

The Meckendorfers surely were of sturdy stock. Members of the family had endured the cruel hardships of the Thirty Years War, the French occupation and other hazards. Now, again, they withstood the rigorous conditions aboard a small vessel sailing the wide Atlantic.

MECKENDORFER TO McINTURFF

We know the identity of Johannes "McInterfeer" on the Allen's passenger list.

But who was "Phronik Mickinturfer?" Was she Johannes' ~~wife?~~ NO Her first name, of course, was Veronica. Phronik or Vroni were common variants for Veronica, especially in Switzland. And her last name was the same as Johannes' surname despite the discrepant spelling.

Johannes' mother was Veronica (Meier) Meckendorfer. Was she the Phronik Mickinturfer aboard the Allen? Her husband, Hans Georg Meckendorfer, father of Johannes, died 11 April 1715. Veronica apparently was still living in 1729; no record of her death or remarriage prior to that year has been found in the Karlsruhe church archives. She could have left Neckarau before 1729, of course, and so could have Johannes, for whom there is no record of a marriage in his home area.

An emigration record, if one exists, could answer the question; none has been found. Without such positive proof it cannot be totally ruled out that Veronica was Johannes' mother.

Hans Georg was 45 years old when he and Veronica Meier were married in 1700. It is doubtful that his third wife was as young as 21, but if so she would have been 50 years old in 1729. She would have been leaving behind other sons and daughters to go with 26-year-old Johannes to start a new life in America.

The most plausible conclusion--and it is the one this writer accepts--is that "Phronik Mickinturfer" on the Allen was the ~~wife of Johannes Meckendorfer~~ NO. It is highly likely that he had met and married a woman named Veronica in some place other than the Mannheim-Neckarau region. NO - made up conclusion

The day the Meckendorfers went aboard the Allen they left behind not only homeland, family and friends, they left behind their very identity. Johannes and Phronik came off the ship under surnames spelled "McInterfeer" and "Mickinturfer."

From then on in the New World, record-keepers, both civil and clerical, had trouble with the name. They never could get it right, except for a few instances in church records written by German pastors.

In the centuries that followed his arrival the surname of Johannes' descendants became transformed into the Scotch-sounding "McInturff" and some 50 other variations, with and without a 'Mc' prefix, in courthouse records, census reports, church registers, and even letters penned by early descendants in this country.

Transformations of the names of our immigrant ancestors as recorded by ships clerks and others to their present form is a circumstance that researchers have long had to contend with. Variations in the spellings of surnames were not confined to those early days; they persisted for decades thereafter.

Of interest is an article printed in the Bulletin of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society (No. 2, 1965) entitled "How A Scot Once More Became A Pennsylvania German." By the editor, Arthur D. Graeff, it said:

"We should like to quote from a letter by Charles M. Miller addressed to Dr. M. Ellsworth Kyger, co-author with Elmer M. Smith and John G. Stewart of the "Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley (Va.) . . .

"In the Fort Valley section, inside the Massanutten Mountains, an examination of tombstones reveals a German heritage with a mixture of non-Germans with such names as Bowman, Boyer, Cullers, Crisman, Golladay, Clem, McInturff, McClanahan, Sibert,Shipe.

"In this neighborhood, the Pennsylvania German dialect is almost extinct. Of the three known dialect speakers, two have the unlikely names of McInturff and McClanahan. Through heterogenous marriage some customs and traditions have been assimilated while others have been entirely lost.

"Upon the above, the corresponedent, Mr. Miller, makes

this interesting comment: 'Now in the case of McInturff, one needs to add the suffix er (McInturffer), then change the spelling to Maeckenderffer, and there you have the German original. . .

"Incidentally, I have also read at some time past a McEndarfer obituary. Another Scot? Probably his name was of the same origin.

"We congratulate Mr. Miller in having restored the 'Scot,' McInturff, to his rightful Pennsylvania German heritage."

Mr. Miller was not entirely right in his version of the original, but close enough. And his surmise regarding Mcendarfer was on target.

Most of the "Palatines" on the Allen came ashore with the clothing they wore and a few other belongings. As was frequently the case, some of the early-day passengers had no money to pay for their passage. The ship owners had a solution for their problem. Under British law such passengers came over by agreement that they could be "redeemed" of their debt on arrival. This meant that they were to be indentured into the service of anyone who was willing and able to pay off the debt for the hapless immigrant.

Men, women and even children entered into this type of service, or bondage. The "Redemptioners," as they were called, usually owed between 4 and 10 pounds in English money, and they served from three to five years as bonded servants. After completion of his service a male bond servant was to be provided 50 acres of land by the Proprietary Government at an annual quit rent of two shillings per acre. And he was entitled to all the rights and privileges of any other resident in the Penn Colony.

When Veronica Meckendorfer stepped off the Allen she left no footprints. So far as available records go, she walked into oblivion. No further trace of her has been found. The secret of her life in America probably has been lost in a long missing

church record.

Where Johannes went after he left the dock at Philadelphia is well documented. He and the other male passengers were escorted to the courthouse in the city and appeared before a magistrate to swear an oath of "True Allegiance" to the British King, at that time George II, who had ascended the throne in 1727. The men also pledged fidelity to the Penn Proprietary and Province of Pennsylvania.

The oath that Johannes and the others swore described them all as "natives and the late inhabitants of the Palatinate upon the Rhine and places adjacent."

In addition to the Oath of Allegiance the Allen's men passengers were required to swear an Oath of Abjuration; that is, a disavowal of fealty to any Sovereign other than King George. The women were not required to take any oaths.

Separate lists of the signers of these oaths have been preserved in the Pennsylvania Archives, and have been published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as "Colonial Records." The printed names did not in all cases correspond to the original handwritten lists. For example, Johannes "McInterfeer" on the handwritten list came out as Mackinterfer in printed form.

With the oath-taking ceremonies completed, Johannes' ties with his homeland were officially severed. He was now a British subject. He and Phronik began a new life; where and how it is impossible to say with certainty.

Available records give no clue to where they went in the first five years they lived in America. There is no written record of them as Redemptioners. But if they were in fact redeemed, it is likely they left the courthouse in the custody of their redeemers with little or no delay.

Brethren leader Mack took most of his flock, if not all, to Germantown, where a Brethren settlement had existed for many years. It is this writer's belief that the Meckendorfers went there for at least a few weeks.

The next official record of Johannes after his oath-taking in Philadelphia comes four and a half years later. This remains as one of the unexplained gaps in our account.

On 28 February 1734, John Meketerffer received a warrant for 106 acres of land in Long Swamp Township in the extreme northern end of Philadelphia County. The warrant, signed by John Penn, was an order for a survey preliminary to purchase of the land, some 50 miles northwest of Philadelphia in a largely unsettled region. The first pioneers to go there, about 1715-20, came mainly from Wurttemberg and were of the Reformed faith.

The survey report and sketch show the tract was bounded on two sides by land in the name of John Rorebach (Rohrbach), on another side by land of Fred Poppenmeyer. Others with bordering tracts were George Walbert, Peter Clock and Dewalt Carl. (Copies of the warrant, survey report and related documents can be found in Volume I of The McInturffs.)

The purchase price of the land was 15 pounds 10 shillings, or about forty-one dollars for 100 acres. That was no small sum in 1734. Apparently it was too much for John Meketerffer. He paid only a small part of the amount and never actually obtained a patent (deed) to the land.

Nearly 140 years later, on 13 January 1873, the same tract was conveyed to Daniel Rohrbach "in pursuance of a warrant dated the twenty-eighth day of February A D 1734, granted to . . John McKeterffer . . ."

This document stated that "in consideration of the money paid by John Meketerffer at the granting of the warrant, hereinafter mentioned, and of the sum of two hundred and eleven dollars, in full arrearage and fees" paid to the Commonwealth, Daniel Rohrbach was given title to the land.

In 1734 a petition was presented to the provincial legislature by inhabitants of Bucks County stating that the signers were "from Germany, and having purchased lands," they desired naturalization. By that time Long Swamp had been incorporated

into Bucks County.

The response by the legislature was slow, but eventually the lawmakers acceded to the request. John Meketerffer's name was not on the petition, perhaps because he still could not sign his name.

Next comes another of those gaps in the story of Johannes Meckendorfer's life. No record has been found of his activities during the nine years that followed 1734. Some circumstantial evidence will come to light, however,

On April 3, 1743, John Mickenderfer of Bucks County received the Sacrament, a requirement of law as a preliminary step toward another important milestone in his life, the forsaking of his German citizenship.

Ten days later, on April 13, he appeared "at Supreme Court held at Philadelphia" to be naturalized. The record states that those taking the oath had "resided the space of seven years and upwards in His Majesty's colonies in America."

It also showed that those naturalized had produced "certificates of having taken the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in some Protestant or Reformed Congregation in this province within three weeks before" the court session. Where John Mickenderfer took the Sacrament has not been determined, but there is a good possibility that it was at St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Germantown.

He was now "a subject of Great Britain . . . entitled to all rights, privileges and advantages of natural born subjects."

Bucks County tax records do not list John Meketerffer by any spelling. Bucks County, created in 1682, was one of the original counties in Pennsylvania and comprised a large territory. A portion of the county was taken to form the new county of Northampton in 1752. In the same year Bucks, Chester, Lancaster and Philadelphia counties yielded land to form Berks County.

In this shuffle, Long Swamp Township wound up in Berks County, and a township that adjoined Long Swamp, Macungie, formerly in Bucks, now was in Northampton.

There are persuasive bits of evidence that Johannes lived in Long Swamp on his warranted land for a number of years, but possibly had moved a few miles northward into Macungie for a time.

A warrant and survey report, originally made under date of 21 April 1735, for 150 acres of land that had been granted to Clement Arne (Arndt) became void. John "Nickenderver" filed a request for the tract, and it was granted to him on 11 May 1753. The land was in Macungie Township, so named in 1743, prior to formation of Northampton County. John "Nickenderver" undoubtedly was none other than John Mickenderfer. But whether he was the immigrant Johannes is impossible to say in light of other facts uncovered in this research.

The land in Macungie was better than that in Long Swamp, which was swampy and timbered in the 1730s. Possibly this had prompted an unannounced move to Macungie by the Long Swamp warrantee. The two tracts were only a few miles apart. There is a possibility that the Macungie warrantee was the son of Johannes.

How long the Meckendorfers might have lived in the Long Swamp/Macungie area can only be surmised. After a period of relative quiet and prosperity--described by some as the Golden Age in that area--the settlers came under attack in the early 1750s by Indians sweeping down from the Blue Mountains to the north.

More than 100 settlers were killed and their homes burned. Some of them fled the region, possibly including our ancestors.

Without evidence to the contrary it is reasonable to assume that Johannes and Veronica Meckendorfer went to the northern frontier of Philadelphia County in 1734 and had already started a family.

Church records provide sufficient information to fill in a few more pieces of the jigsaw puzzle.

2nd Wife

On April 23, 1753, one John Meckendoerfer was married to Maria Rosina Kern in Philadelphia by the Rev. John Conrad Steiner of the Germantown Reformed Church. A Georg Adam Kern arrived in America from Wurttemberg with a wife, 23 Oct 1752, on the ship

Rawley. Aboard the ship also was Frederick Kern; of what relation to George Adam is not recorded.

The wife that Georg Adam brought with him presumably was Maria Rosina, who was destined to be left a widow and to be remarried five months later to John Meckendoerfer. Johannes

~~Contrary~~ to the conclusions of another researcher, this man was ~~not~~ immigrant Johannes, ~~but was his son~~ NO

Roseannah is the 2nd wife of "Old John" the immigrant

~~Johannes had been married a second time several years earlier, presumably not long after the death of Veronica.~~ made-up conclusion

Recorded in the register of St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Germantown (also referred to as St. Michael's and Zion Lutheran Church) was the baptism on July 20, 1746, of Hans Jürg, a son born on April 13 that year to Johannes Merckendoerffer and his wife, Dorothea. Sponsors were: Hans Georg Marquart and Barbara Marquart. ↖ 1st wife

This boy, named after his grandfather Hans Georg, was the George Mickendorf (McEnterfer et al) of later years in Bedford and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania. It was German custom to identity sons and daughters by the second of their two given names. Hans Jurg was known as George.

No record of the marriage of Johannes and Dorothea has been found in the St. Michael's registry. Possibly the marriage was performed at the "Lost" Whitemarsh Church in the area where Johannes owned property at one time. The date of the marriage remains undetermined.

Johannes and Dorothea were sponsors at several baptisms at St. Michael's Church before and after 1746:

1745, July 14--Baptism of 6-weeks-old Dorothea, daughter of Martin Schmid and wife Magdalena.

1745, Sept. 8--Baptism of Dorothea Elizabetha, day-old daughter of Samuel Mugune and wife Eva.

1749, May 14--Baptism of 9-month-old Johannes, son of Johannes Rudolph and wife Anna Appolinie.

From this data it is deduced rhat the John Meckendoerfer who married Rosina Kern in 1753 was the son of Johannes and Veronica Meckendorfer who arrived in America in 1729. His birth date is unknown. It is possible that he was a baby unrecorded on the passenger list of the ship Allen. Or he could have been born within a year or two after the arrival of the couple in America. In 1753 he was in his early 20s.

Were there other children born to Johannes and Veronica? A 1758 marriage record points to the possibility that there was one, and possibly two, daughters.

Maria Dorothea Mitschdorffer(in), aged 24, was married to Georg Adam Schober, 28, on March 27, 1758, in the Evangelical Congregation at Philadelphia. Witnesses were: Andreas Brechel, Johann Heinrich Gunther and Christian Friedrich Hatmann.

The surname Mitschdorfer has never been found elsewhere among the thousands of names encountered in the years of research on "McInturff." It comes closer to being a variant of Meckendorfer than many of the surnames that have proved to be such.

Georg Adam Schober arrived in America Sept. 17, 1753, on the ship Richard and Mary from Rotterdam. He was listed in the church records as a single communicant, aged 34, at Christmas time in 1757; he was a furrier. Aged 24 in 1758, Maria Dorothea was born in 1733/34, and thus probably a daughter of Johannes and ~~Veronica~~ Dorothea

The second possible daughter of Johannes and ~~Veronica~~ Dorothea:

Maria Elizabetha Mecketerffer of Springfield was married at St. Michael's Lutheran Church at Germantown to Sabastian Ruber. The date is not recorded, but based on other evidence in the records of this church the marriage probably was before 1758. This would mean that Maria Elizabetha would have been born about 1740, and thus in all likelihood a daughter of Johannes and Veronica.

In the 1740s there was a Whitemarsh Reformed Church, but is was not in Whitemarsh Township--of interest later in this account. It was close to the community known as Springfield, only a few miles from Germantown.

The Whitemarsh Congregation--sometimes referred to as the "Lost Church"--in 1740 asked the Reformed church authorities in Holland for permission to unite with the congregation at

Germantown. The permission was not granted but in 1745 a segment of the membership did in fact go to Germantown. Some of the Whitemarsh records were taken to Holland and remained lost there until they were discovered in the archives in 1895.

Whether those records contain the name Meckendorfer is not known.

The ancestry of Sabastian Ruber is undetermined. Among immigrants in the first half of the 1700s was Jacob Ruber, who arrived August 30, 1749, on the ship Crown. Possibly the surname was not Ruber, but Rubert, Ruger or something similar. The name Ruber does not appear in the 1790 Pennsylvania census, the first U.S. census. There are recorded these names: Rueber, Ruder, Rubert, Ruper and Ruperd.

Henry and Georg Carl Rubert came to America October 2, 1749, on the ship Jacob; they were from Swabia, Wurttemberg. Interestingly, on the ship Jacob also were: Friedrich Pfoersching, one of the ancestral line of Gen. John J. Pershing; and a Johannes Huber, a surname from which derived Hoover, the ancestral line of President Herbert Hoover.

If any members of the Meckendorfer family followed Johannes and Veronica to America no record of it is available. And whether any of those in America ever had contact with the family back in Germany is problematical.

A marriage record from the German Reformed Church of Germantown (later the Market Square Presbyterian Church) lists: Jacob Meckendorf and his wife as witnesses to the marriage Jan. 25, 1848, of Jacob Umberger and Susan Derks, Lebanon Township, Lebanon County. The identity of Jacob Meckendorf is not established.

Did Johannes Meckendorfer and his ~~second~~ 1st wife, Dorothea, have any children other than Hans (George) Jurg? Documentary proof is lacking, but Daniel Macenturf (McInturf et al) of Westmoreland and Fayette Counties, Pennsylvania, ~~was almost certainly their son.~~ to "Old John" Johannes & 2nd wife Roseannah (Kern)

The 1790 census record lists him as Daniel Macenturf, in age bracket 26-45; thus born between 1755 and 1774. He was recorded variously with surname McInterfer, McKeredif and McInturff in tax records of the 1780s in Bullskin Township, Fayette County, which bordered Westmoreland on the south and from which Fayette was sliced.

In the interests of accuracy it must be said that except for the record of George's birth in 1746 no church or civil record has been found to document the parentage of others named in the preceding paragraphs.

The Church Book of the Four-Mile Run Congregation in Donegal Township, Westmoreland County (now the Mt. Zion Lutheran Church), has this record:

Anna Christina, born 17 March 1784, to Daniel Muckendorffer and wife Elizabetha, baptized 5 April 1784. Sponsors: Philip Meleissen and Maria Barbara; baptized by pastor Johann Wilhelm Weber. (From Volume I of Paul Miller Ruff's "The German Church Records of Westmoreland County, Pa.")

Anna Christina was the first child of Daniel and Elizabetha Muckendorffer. Daniel is believed to have been born about 1755-56, while his parents were still in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The birth date of Anna Christina fixes the probable year of Daniel's marriage to Elizabeth Dumbold as 1782/83. It was in 1783 that his name first appeared on a tax list in Hempfield Township, Westmoreland County, later Bullskin Township, Fayette County. The tax list recorded him as Daniel McInterfer.

He prospered in the years that followed. Tax lists show him in 1793 as Daniel McInturff in Bullskin Township with 100 acres of land, three horses, two cattle, total value: twenty-three dollars; 1795, with 150 acres, two horses, three cattle, value: twenty-seven dollars; 1796, 250 acres, two horses, three cattle, value: $340.

(Full details of Daniel McInturf and his family and descendants are contained in Volume I of "The McInturffs."

It has not been determined when and where Veronica Meck-

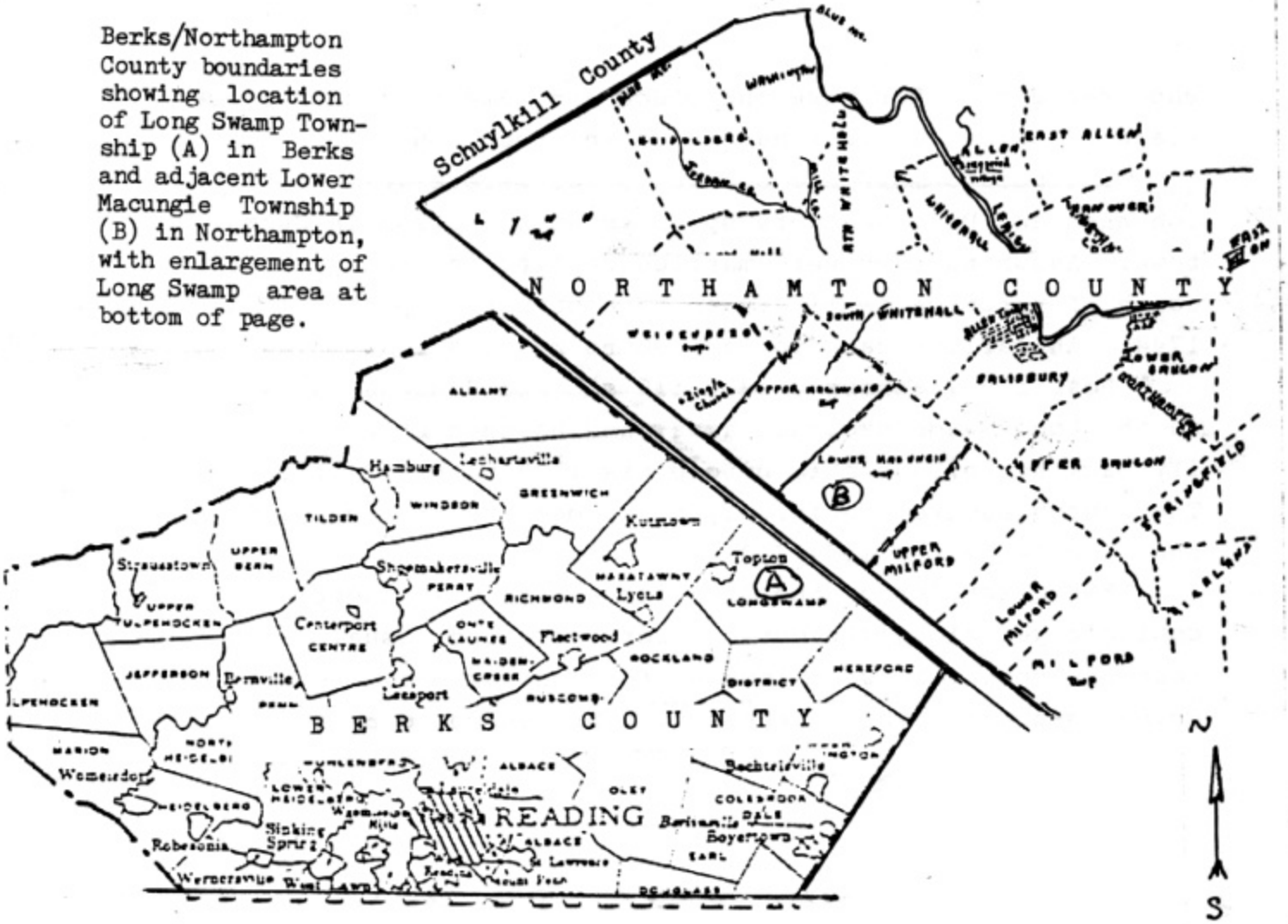
endorfer died. Nor have the place and date of Johannes' marriage to Dorothea (last name unknown) been found.

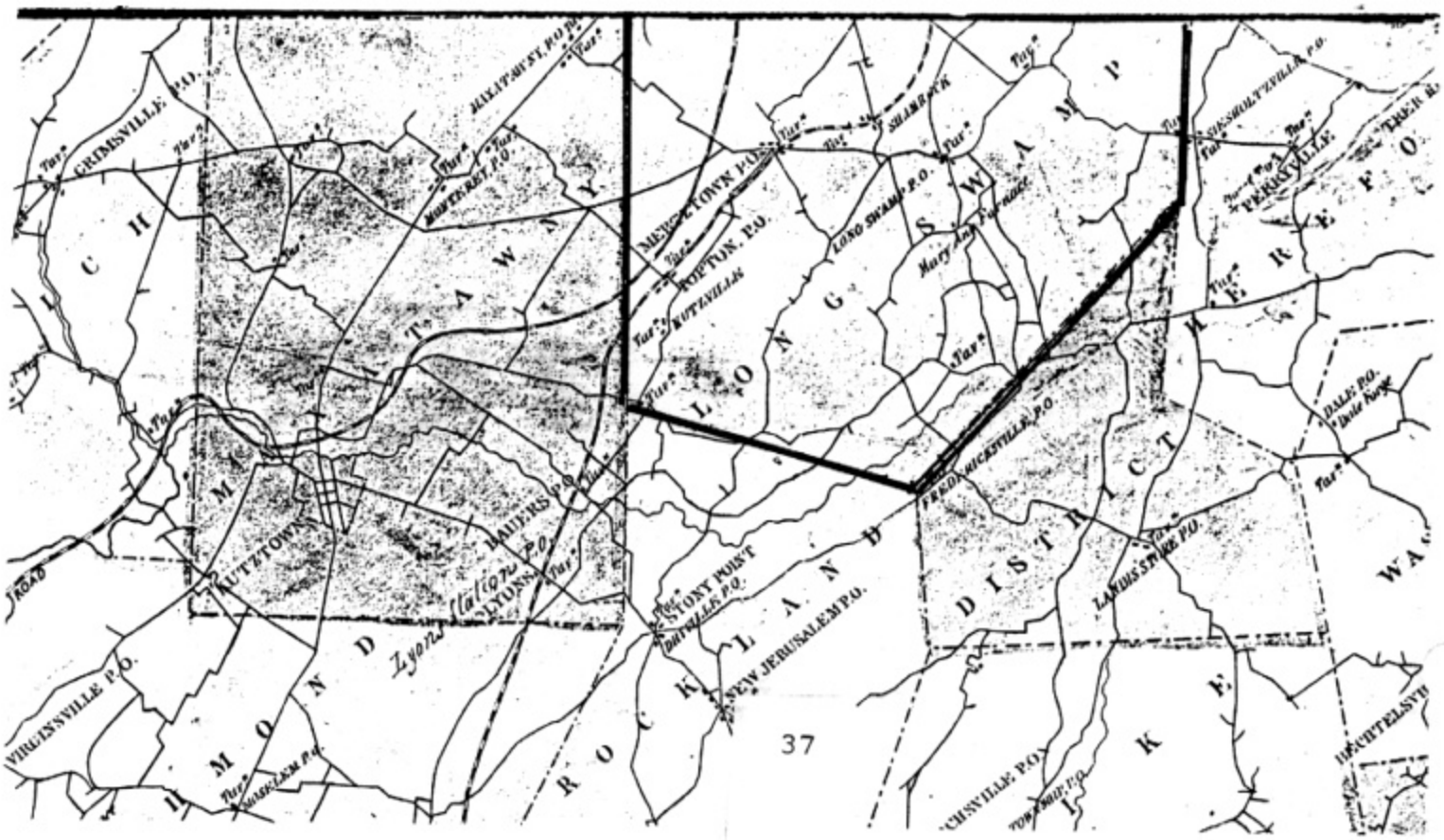
~~The second marriage obviously was before July 1745~~ when Johannes and Dorothea were sponsors at a baptism in Germantown. Assuming they were married earlier in that year, the death of Veronica is likely to have occurred no later than 1744. An earlier date would seem to be more plausible.

Possibly ~~Veronica died while she and Johannes were still~~ in the Long Swamp-Macungie area, and he then brought his family back to Philadelphia before his 1743 naturalization there. The church records definitely place members of the family in that locale in the mid-1740s.

For a settler on the frontier a wife was essential; he couldn't get along without one for very long. Usually when he lost his spouse he went looking for another one, and that meant going to a place where prospective brides could be found.

Berks/Northampton County boundaries showing location of Long Swamp Township (A) in Berks and adjacent Lower Macungie Township (B) in Northampton, with enlargement of Long Swamp area at bottom of page.





TWO BRANCHES OF FAMILY

When Volumes I and II of this history were published it had become apparent that the family tree had two main trunks, stemming from the roots at different periods of time:(1) those descendants traceable to John "Macanturf" of Shenandoah County, Virginia, who came to be known as McInturff (variants McInturf, McEnturf) with some exceptions in Ohio, and (2) descendants of George "Michendorf" of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, who adhered more closely to the original spelling and sound of the name--McEndorfer, McEntarfer, et al.

This had led to the postulation that Johannes Meckendorfer had married a second time. The new information confirms that this was correct.

The new details come from civil as well as church records in Philadelphia and elsewhere.

Johannes engaged in a flurry of real estate transactions around 1750. As reported in earlier paragraphs he obtained a warrant in 1753 to 150 acres of land in Macungie Township, Northampton County.

Four years earlier, in 1749, he bought two pieces of property in the Philadelphia area, only to lose them in sheriff's auctions in 1754 to satisfy court judgments for bad debts.

The Pennsylvania Gazette published on June 13, 1754, a notice of an auction to be held on the 26th of that month. To be sold at "the home of Williams Anderson, in White-Marsh,where Richard Waln lately lived, a plantation with a stone messuage and other improvements, situated in Upper Dublin Township on the east side of the road leading from Germantown. . . containing 120 acres, more or less, late the estate of John Markenderffer, taken in execution by Samuel Morris, Sheriff."

This notice was followed September 15 by a similar one, puting up for auction on the 23rd of September "a lot or piece of ground at the upper end of Germantown in Gresham (Cresheim) Township . . . by the Great Road leading from Germantown to White-

marsh, containing about two acres, late the property of John Mickenderffer, taken in execution" by Sheriff Morris.

The place in Upper Dublin Township was approximately 6.3 miles from Germantown, and the two-acre plot evidently was at the edge of the Germantown settlement of the Brethren, at that time some seven miles northwest of the city of Philadelphia. All of this land is now within the urban environs of Philadelphia, and would be valued today in the millions of dollars.

The phrases "late the estate" and "late the property" did not mean necessarily that the owner was deceased; they meant that the properties were last recorded in that person's name.

That the two parcels were those of Johannes Meckendorfer, not his son John, is fairly certain. In 1749, young John would have been about 19 years old and not eligible to be buying property.

John Mickenderffer/Markenderffer had been named defendant in two separate lawsuits to collect debts he owed to Bernard Reser and Ablone Strouse. Court judgments were entered against him and the sheriff's auctions were pursuant to that order.

The 120-acre "plantation" with the stone messuage (house) was sold to John Elliott, whose bid of 206 pounds was the highest made at the auction. The deed was issued Sept. 1, 1754. (Sheriff's Deeds, Vol. I, p 132).

The two-acre tract, actually a bit less than that, was bought by Mattias Adam Hogermaed for 36 pounds 10 shillings. His deed was dated Nov. 15, 1754.

(Transcripts of the documents are reproduced on succeeding pages herein).

Deed records (Book G12, pages 455-61) show that the 120-acre plantation in Upper Dublin Township was bought by John Mackendorfer for 170 pounds "in hand paid," May 1, 1749. The English pound at that time was equivalent to about $2.75 of later U.S. dollars, so the price was in the range of $460-470.

The property, sold by the executors of the will of Mathew Meglathy of Whitemarsh, adjoined land belonging to Jacob Cole-

965, 344 p. 132, Vol. A 1

Bernard Keser

vs.

John Merkenderfer

Samuel Morris Esq. High Sheriff of the City and County of Philadelphia acknowledged in open Court a Deed for conveying unto John Elliott of (left blank) and to his heirs and assigns All that plantation or tract of Land situate lying and being in the Township of Upper Dublin in the County of Philad.a beginning by at a stake by the Land formerly reputed Jacob Coledays extending thence by the same Southeast One hundred and forty perches to a stone at a corner thence Northeast by Land of Nicholas Scull One hundred and thirty seven perches to a stone at a corner, thence Northeast One hundred and forty perches to a stake at a corner thence to part of the same Land One hundred and thirty seven perches to the place of beginning, containing One hundred and twenty acres of Land, be the same more or less, however otherwise butted, bounded lying or being being the Estate of John Merkenderfer seized and taken in Execution at the suit of Bernard Keser and sold to John Elliott, he being the highest bidder for the sum of Two hundred and six pounds lawful money of Penn.a dated the first Sept. AD 1754

Sept 1754

1

965,344 p. 138 – Vol. A1

Ablone Strouse
vs
John Mickenderfer

Samuel Morris Esq. High Sheriff of the City and County of Philad^a acknowledged in open court a Deed for conveying unto Mattias Adam Boegermaeld of Germantown, in the County of Philad^a Yeoman, and to his heirs and assigns; All that tract or piece of ground situate in the upper end of Germantown, towards that part commonly called Dresheim in the said County of Philad^a, beginning at a post a corner on the Easterly side of the Great Road leading from Philad^a to Germantown, North Wales and Whitemarsh being also a corner of Derrick Johnsons Land, by the side of the Great Road, thence by the said Derrick Johnsons Land Northeast forty three perches and five feet to another corner post in the said Derrick Johnsons Land and also a corner of the said Boegermaeds other land, thence by the said Boegermaeds other land south thirty nine degrees East six perches one foot seven inches (about) to a corner post by the said Road, thence by the same great Road North seventeen degrees, West seven perches two feet eight inches to the place of beginning containing one acre and a half and one acre and thirty perches of Land, be the same more or less being the Estate of John Mickenderfer seized and taken in Execution at the suit of Ablone Strouse and sold to Mattias Adam Boegermaed he being the highest bidder for the sum of thirty six pounds ten shillings lawful money of Penn^a dated the 15th Nov A.D. 1754.

day and Nicholas Scull.

It was part of an original 500-acre grant to Henry Patrick, July 16, 1681, and later sold at a sheriff's auction in 1686 to John King for debts due the latter. King sold the land June 10, 1691, to Nicholas Scull, who in turn left it to his son Nicholas, by will dated March 5, 1703. The younger Scull, executor of the estate, and his wife Abigail sold 140 acres in August 1725 to Benjamin Charlesworth, who sold to Mathew Meglathy the 120 acres that John Mackendorfer bought from the executors, John Meglathy and Archibald McClean.

The deed did not specifically mention the stone house on the land, as noted in the sheriff's advertisement. Perhaps the words "appurtenances" and "improvements" in the deed included the house. Of course it is possible the house was built after it was bought in 1749.

An unpunctuated clause in the deed stated that the land was conveyed to John Mackendorfer "together with all the improvements . . . swamps cripples rights liberties privileges conditions easements fishings fowlings huntings hawkings hereditaments and appurtenances whatever thereunto . . . excepting always and reserving unto the said Nicholas Scull, his heirs and assigns forever all the mines and minerals . . . in or on said land. . . "

The deed referred to "yearly quit rents hereinafter to become due and owing (?) out of the said 120 acres of land to the chief Lord or Lords of the fee thereof . . . " The deed was recorded Jan. 5, 1750, after payment was acknowledged by Samuel Morris Esq., "one of the justices for the County of Philadelphia," and later sheriff.

John Meckenderffer bought the small lot at the edge of Germantown June 10, 1749, from the heirs of the estate of Peter Shoemaker. He paid 55 pounds--about $65--for it.

Shoemaker's will, dated Feb. 21, 1740, left the plot to his four daughters and two grandsons: namely, Agnes, unmarried; Mary, wife of Thomas Phipps; Margaret, wife of Benjamin Mason;

Early townships (about 1725-30) in the Philadelphia area. Upper Dublin was formed by division and Whitemarsh was created when township lines were redrawn at a later date.
BYBERRY TOWNSHIP
MORELAND TOWNSHIP
LOWER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP
GERMANTOWN TOWNSHIP
ROXBOROUGH TOWNSHIP
BRISTOL TOWNSHIP
OXFORD TOWNSHIP
FRANKFORD BOROUGH
NORTHERN LIBERTIES TOWNSHIP
RIVER
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
BLOCKLEY TOWNSHIP
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
NORTHERN LIBERTIES DISTRICT
SOUTHWARK DISTRICT
PASSYUNK TOWNSHIP
MOYAMENSING TOWNSHIP
KINGSESSING TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
DELAWARE
N
CITY PLANS DIVISION
BUREAU OF ENGINEERING & SURVEYS
PHILADELPHIA

Elizabeth, widow of Joseph Deaves (?), and Samuel and Daniel Potts.

The lot was described as being on the northeast side of the main street of Germantown and bordering lands belonging to Dirk Johnson and Mathias Adam Hogermaed. It was Hogermaed who bought the lot at the sheriff's sale in 1754. The 1749 deed gave the size as one acre and 110 perches.

The reason for the debt judgments against John Mackendorfer is unexplained. The nature of the debts, whether for overdue payments on loans or unpaid bills, and the amount are not recorded in the transactions detailed here.

Equally puzzling is how a man not long in from life on the frontier could come up with large sums that he paid in cash to buy the properties. Possibly he borrowed the money and was unable to meet the repayments as they came due.

There is some reason for believing that he had left Philadelphia County before 1754, It was not usual for sheriff's sales to be ordered by a court until delinquencies in taxes, fees or other financial obligations had run for more the few years involved in this situation--unless the debtor had moved away and would be deemed no longer in position to pay off his debts.

The last positive evidence of John Mackendorfer's presence in the Philadelphia area is that noted in the church and land records of 1749. It does not appear that he had died any earlier than 1755, or thereabouts, when son Daniel was born. The 1754 sales could be taken as an indication that he had departed his place near Philadelphia before that time--a fact perhaps known to his creditors, who saw no recourse other than appealing to the court for redress.

It was in 1753 that John "Nickenderver" got the Macungie land warrant which, incidentally, bore the signature of Nicholas Scull as Surveyor-General of the Province of Pennsylvania. Johannes Meckendorfer had been in the Philadelphia area for several years prior to 1749 and possibly for a little longer. Presumably he obtained the new land in Northampton County with

the intention of going there, a move he could have made before the 1754 sales.

This speculation raises the possibility that the birth of Daniel Meckendorfer could have occurred in Northampton around 1755-57.

The 1754 sheriff's sales point up a pattern that Johannes Meckendorfer seems to have fallen into. This was the third time he let a piece of real estate in his possession, at least nominally, slip away from him.

Fcr whatever reasons, he never completed the required payments on the Long Swamp land and did not get a deed to it. No deed was issued to him for the Macungie farm, showing that it was never paid for in full.

The church records make it possible to trace with more accurate dates the movements of Johannes' offspring from his two marriages.

The first record of Hans Jurg (George) Meckendorfer after his birth in 1746 was found in Hempfield Township, Bedford County, in southwestern Pennsylvania. On the 1773 township tax list was the name George Metapher (Me-ken-tapher; that is, Meckenterfer with the dropped syllable put in place). The name of Casper Mattaphor (that is, Ma-ken-torfer), a "single freeman," also was on the same list.

In 1774, after Hempfield Township had been incorporated into newly-formed Westmoreland County, George Mickendorf received Land Patent No. 81 from the Penn Proprietary. A 1798 tax list had his name as George McEndorff.

George was married to Catherine Altman, exact place and date unknown. The 1773 tax record shows he was married before that time. The couple's first son, George II, is believed to have been born about 1771.

George Macenterfer's will in Stark County, Ohio, in 1820 named: sons John, William, Jacob, Christian and "the heirs of George Macenterfer Jr.," and daughters: Susanna Seiner, Mary Bair, "the children of Catherine Nidigh and the children of

Christina Livingston." George II had died in Stark County in June 1817.

Birth and baptismal records of the Old Zion Evangelical Lutheran (Harrold's) Church in the Sewickley Settlement near the present town of Greensburg, Pa., list the following children born to Georg Meckendorffer and wife Catharina:

Johannes, b 14 Aug 1772, baptized 18 October. [Evidently the Johannes G. in a later record, but called John].

Maria Susannah, b 6 Dec 1774, bpt 1 Jan 1775. [married Seiner/Seanor/Zehner].

Maria Catharina, b - - 1776, bpt 30 March 1776. [married John Nidigh].

Susannah Christina, b 28 March 1792, bpt 27 May. [married first, Sol Firestone; second, Andrew Livingston].

Joh. Christian, b 14 May 1794, bpt 3 Aug 1794.

Not recorded in the Harrold's book are the births of sons George; William (Wilhelm), b c1780; Jacob, b 1782/3; and daughter Anna Maria (Mary), b c1783, mar George Bair/Behr; a son, Johannes, was born to them 22 May 1805,baptized 18 August.

Some of this information revises and updates data presented in Volumes I and II.

Joseph M. Kellogg's unpublished book, "The Altman Family," the product of years of research and writing, details this family's history in America. Kellogg states that George Mackendoerfer was married to Catherine Altman about 1771. She was a daughter of William Altman and his wife, Maria Barbara Scholl.

According to Kellogg, William came to America with a group of Altmans on the ship Phoenix which arrived in Philadelphia Sept. 15, 1749. Kellogg placed William's birth year as about 1732 and expressed the belief that he was a son of Jacob and Anna Maria Altman. Other sources give William's birth date as about 1740.

The Altmans remained in southeastern Pennsylvania for several years. The 1758 and 1759 tax lists of Maxatawny Township, Berks County, listed William and his brother Anthony. William/

is believed to have married Maria Barbara, said to be a daughter of Carl Jacob Scholl, while still in Berks County. A recently-published book listing Berks County marriages from 1730 to 1800 does not contain the name Altman.

Carl Scholl came to America Sept. 3, 1739, on the ship Loyal Judith and settled in Allemangle or Lynn Township in Northampton County, where he was a founder of the Ebenezer Church.

Kellogg's research led him to believe that William and Maria Barbara Altman went to Virginia or southwestern Pennsylvania not long after their marriage. Prior to the French-Indian wars of the mid-1700s Virginia claimed a portion of what now is Pennsylvania, including Westmoreland, Bedford and Fayette Counties. The dispute resulted in Dunmore's War, 1774-5; Virginia finally surrendered its claim in 1777.

William Altman's name was on that 1773 Bedford County tax list that included George "Metapher" and Casper "Mattaphor," who is believed to have been George's nephew, the son of John Macanturf (designated Old John in Volumes I and II to distinguish him from his son John) of Shenandoah County, Virginia.

Both George Mickendorf and William Altman were signers of a 1774 petition to Gov. John Penn requesting protection from unfriendly Indians. The 80 signers, including also Kasber Mickendorf and Anthony and Peter Altman, met at Fort Allen in the center of the German settlement three miles west of the present town of Greensburg.

The log fort was built to protect the early settlers against Indian assaults in the perilous times preceding the start of the American Revolution. Afterward it became a schoolhouse and stood until a century later when it was torn down.

The petition is commemorated by a bronze plaque bearing the names of the signers and erected on a stone base near the Old Zion Evangelical Lutheran (Harrold's) Church whose books bear many entries of Altmans and Mickendorfers. The church was established in 1765.

The signatures on the 1774 and two other petitions in that period from the Fort Allen and Hanna's Town area are "accepted by the Daughters of the American Revolution as proof of ancestral service for membership eligibility," according to Kellogg. William Altman's name is in the D.A.R. Patriot Index.

William Altman died intestate in 1798. Deeds drawn in 1800 in connection with the settlement of his estate (Deed Book 6, Westmoreland County) state that William Altman's land was surveyed "by virtue of an order dated the 3d day of April 1769, No. 1675, adjoining lands of John Brand, Anthony Altman and Nicolas Klingensmith, containing 332 acres."

"William Altman was, apparently, an influential member of the Old Zion Lutheran Church in Hempfield Township, often appearing on its records as a sponsor. . .," Kellogg wrote. Among the listings was the following baptismal record:

> March 30, 1777, William Altman and Maria Barbara, his wife, were sponsors at the baptism of Maria Catharina (born 1776), daughter of George Mickendoerfer and wife Catherine."

William Altman-DAR

The whereabouts of Johannes Meckendorfer and his family after the early 1750s remains an enigma. No record has been found of his residence in Philadelphia or Northampton County to show where he lived out his final. The 1754 property sales do not prove that he actually was in the Philadelphia area at that time.

By 1760 his eldest son, John, was married and out on his own with a young family, perhaps living in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. George was only 14 years old and Daniel was under 5. And there is the possibility that a daughter, Elizabeth, had been born to Johannes and Dorothea and was still in her teens.

Johannes in 1760 was 57 years old. If he and Dorothea

had married about 1742, it is likely she was a widow in her early 30s. Assuming she was no older than 42 when their son Daniel was born, her birth year would have been no earlier than 1713-15.

The evidence shows that George and his bride Catherine went to Bedford County about 1771-2. By that time Johannes would have been close to 70 years old and Dorothea in her mid-50s.

These calculations raise several possibilities:

(1) Johannes and Dorothea went with son John to Frederick County, Virginia, in the early 1760s, or

(2) They remained in southeastern Pennsylvania until about 1772, then went with George to the southwestern part of the state, or

(3) Johannes had died before the migrations of either son and is buried in Northampton or Philadelphia County in an unmarked grave.

Daniel was no more than 15 in 1770 and too young to be independent of supervision by an adult kinsman, either parental or, say, living with his brother George.

All this is speculation, of course, as is the possibility of a daughter, Elizabeth,

THE McINTURFFS IN VIRGINIA

The first record of a "McInturff" in Virginia was in 1763. A report by surveyor Thomas Rutherford, dated Oct.6, 1763, bore the name of Christopher Macinturf. He and Teter Clem were chain carriers for the surveyor,a chore often performed by young boys in those early days. The tract surveyed was then in Frederick County, but later taken into Shenandoah County when it was formed in 1772.

~~Christopher Macinturf was a son--and almost certainly the first born--of Johannes' son John and Maria Rosina Kern~~, who were married April 23, 1753, at Philadelphia.

"Old John" The will of John Macanturf, dated June 25, 1779, and unsigned named his wife as "Roseannah," undoubtedly Rosina, and listed their ~~six~~ 7 sons and two daughters. The sons were: Christopher, Casper, John, Frederick, Daniel and David; the daughters: Mary and Margaret. George — spelled Geoge

The will obviously had been handwritten for John by someone else. The writer probably misunderstood Rosina for Roseannah.

With few exceptions, the non-German record-keepers in Shenandoah, census takers and courthouse clerks, dropped the 'er' suffix from the name. A 1775 head count recorded Jno. McEnturff in Shenandoah. A 1784 court record listed George McInterfer (George at that time was living in Shenandoah) and a 1786 tax report had: George Migendorfer, David Megendorfer, and Frederick Miggendorfer--along with Christopher McInturf.

It was not long afterward, however, before McInturff became the most prevalent spelling for members of the John "Macanturf" branch of the family. In Volume I, John was identified as "Old John" to distinguish him from his son John,

It is likely that Christopher and some of the other children of John and Rosina were born in the Philadelphia area. The marriage date of the couple makes it possible to revise

Raymond is looking at the recorded version that omitted a line from the original will

the probable birth dates of their offspring. Exact birth dates are available for only one of them.

Some of them probably were baptized by itinerant pastors or in one of the early organized congregations in Powell's Fort Valley or the adjacent region. Lutheran and Reformed churches had been started there as early as 1747, including a church at Strasburg. Researchers who have been working with some of the records of these early churches for more than 20 years have yet to publish all of their findings.

Continued research has failed to solve the mystery of Elizabeth McInturf, whose estate was administered in 1788 in Shenandoah County by George McInturf (Mickendorf, McEndorff and other variants in Westmoreland County). Elizabeth McEnturff was first recorded in Shenandoah in 1774 in a suit she filed against Bernard Reedy, who in turn sued Christopher McEnturff that same year. The nature of the two civil actions has not been determined, nor whether they were inter-connected.

Elizabeth McInturf met death from some cause that required an inquest. The minutes of the inquest are missing.

Assuming that she was at least 21 years of age in 1774, Elizabeth's birth year would have been no later than 1753. But in all likelihood it was much before that time, and in the time frame of George (b 1746) and Daniel (b c1755-7). It would appear that she could have been: (a) a sister of George and Daniel, or (b) the widow of a McInturf (Meckendorfer) whose name has not been encountered in the extensive research by this writer and others.

Although it would have been unusual in those days for a spinster to have the large amount of personal property recorded in Elizabeth's estate, the more plausible conclusion is that she came into possession of it through inheritance. One way to account for her property is that it had belonged to her mother, Dorothea, who died in Shenandoah County after going there with other members of the family, including Johannes.

The fact that George went to Shenandoah County at about that time and that he, instead of John or any member of John's family, administered the estate suggests a close relationship between George and Elizabeth. No one of John's family bought any item of Elizabeth's belongings. That was an unusual circumstance and likely of significance.

Later generations hinted a rift between George and his half-brother John, but this is without corroboration. It is a fact that George went back to Westmoreland a few years after settling the estate and the two branches of the family grew apart. Some researchers even failed to link the two.

The story of John, George and Daniel McInturff/McEntarfer et al, as they and their offspring scattered to the frontiers of the newly-formed United States of America is related in Volumes I and II of "The McInturffs."

By the second generation the descendants of immigrant Johannes Meckendorfer numbered in the scores, and they resided in many of the states and territories of the expanding nation.

Limited efforts to trace the descendants of the daughters of Johannes have been unavailing.

CHRONOLOGY

1703, 29 April--Johannes, son of Hans Georg Meckendorfer and his third wife, Veronica (Meier) Meckendorfer, was born at Neckarau, Baden, Germany.

1729, 11 September--Johannes and (Veronica) Meckendorfer arrived in Philadelphia aboard the ship Allen, recorded on the passenger list as Johannes McInterfeer and Phronik Mickinturfer.

1734, 28 February--John Meketerffer obtained a survey warrant for 146 acres of undeveloped land in Long Swamp Township in the northern part of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

~~1742-44--Veronica Meckendorfer is believed to have died, date and place unknown.~~

1743, 13 April--John Mickenderfer of Bucks County, formerly in Philadelphia County, was naturalized as a British citizen at a session of the Supreme Court at Philadelphia, after receiving the required Sacrament a few days earlier.

1743-44 (approximately)--Johannes Meckendorfer was married to Dorothea (last name unknown), his ~~second~~ wife. They were sponsors at the baptism 14 July 1745 of a six-week-old daughter of Martin Schmid and wife Magdalena, in St. Michael's and Zion Lutheran Church at Germantown. Pa. Johannes and Dorothea were sponsors at other baptisms in 1745 and 1749.

1746, 13 April--A son, Hans Jurg was born to Johannes Meckendorfer and his wife, Dorothea; baptized 20 July at St. Michael's Church.

1753, 23 April--John Meckendoerfer was married to Maria Rosina Kern in Philadelphia. ~~Evidence points to the definite conclusion that John was a son of Johannes and Veronica Meckendorfer, born in the early 1730s.~~ NO

1753, 11 May--John Nickenderver (Mickendorfer) was granted a warrant for a 150-acre tract of land in Macungie Township, Northampton County, Pa., close to the Long Swamp land obtained in 1734 by John Meketerffer.

1754, 26 June--A 120-acre plantation with a stone house, "late the estate of John Markenderffer," in Upper Dublin Township near Philadelphia, was sold at public auction by the sheriff of Philadelphia County.

1754, 23 September--A two-acre plot at the upper end of Germantown in Gresham Township, "late the property of John Mickenderffer," was sold at another auction by the same sheriff, Samuel Morris.

1758, March 27--Maria Dorothea Mitschdorffer, 24, was married to Georg Adam Kern, 28, in the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Philadelphia.

1758 (year and date not established)--Maria Elizabetha Mecketerffer of Springfield, near Philadelphia, was married to Sabastian Ruber in St. Michael's Church.

1763, 6 October--A surveyor's report in Frederick County (latwr Shenandoah County), Va., recorded Christopher Macinturf as a chain carrier for the surveyor. He was the son of John Macanturf, who died in June 1779, and Dorothea ~~Rosannah (Rosina) Macanturf of Shenandoah County~~.

1773 --George Metapher (Me-ken-tapher) was recorded on a tax list in Hempfield Township, Bedford County, Pa. The following year George Mickenderf obtained a land patent in Hempfield Township, incorporated that year into newly formed Westmoreland County, Pa.

1783 --Daniel McInterfer was recorded on a tax list in Hempfield Township (later to become Bullskin Township in the new county of Fayette). In 1790 he was enumerated as Daniel Macenturf in the U.S. census. Later records gave his surname as McInturf.

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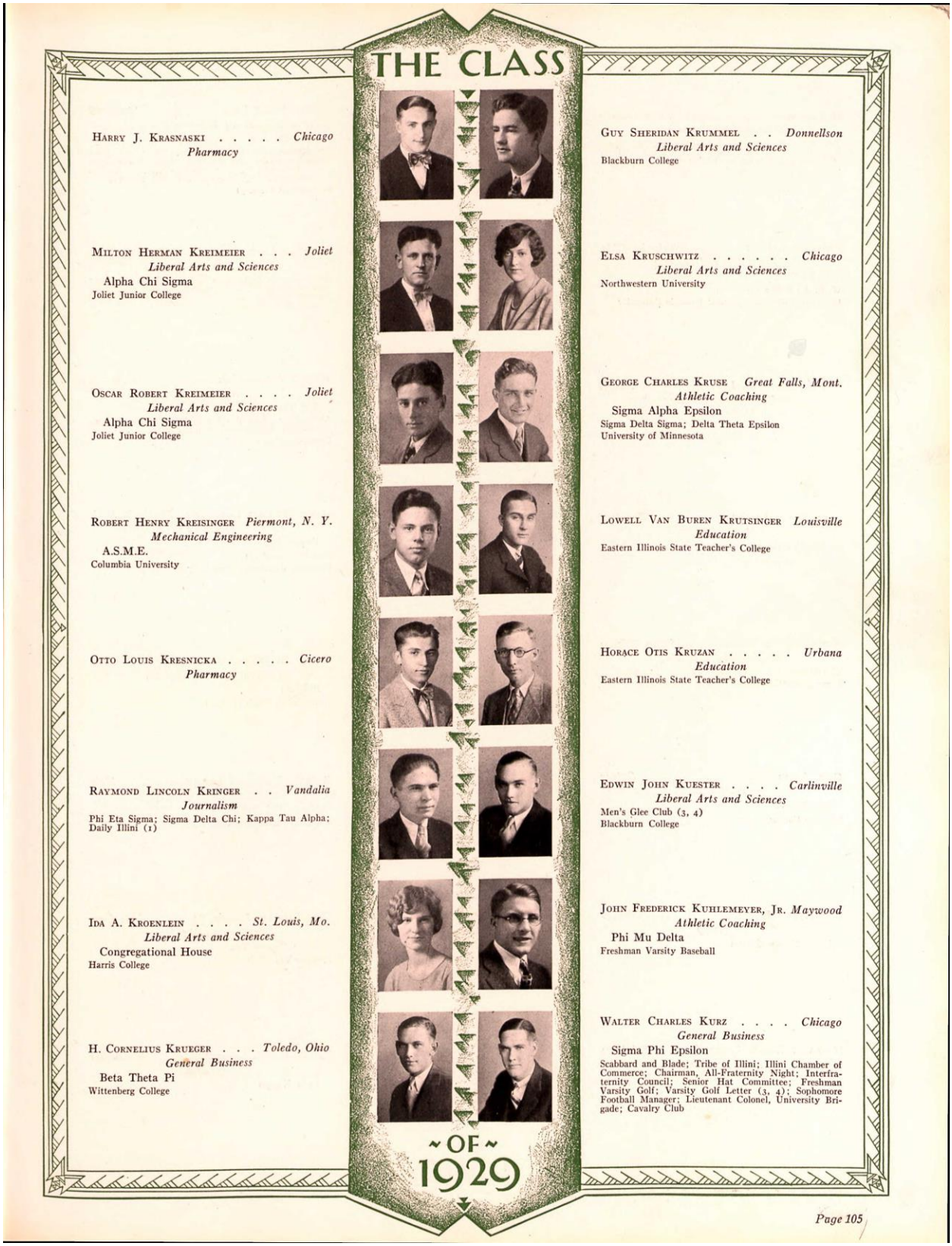

THE CLASS

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Alpha Chi Sigma
Joliet Junior College

OSCAR ROBERT KREIMEIER . . . . *Joliet*
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Alpha Chi Sigma
Joliet Junior College

ROBERT HENRY KREISINGER *Piermont, N. Y.*
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A.S.M.E.
Columbia University

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Sigma Delta Sigma; Delta Theta Epsilon
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~OF~
1929

Raymond Lincoln Kringer, class of 1929, University of Illinois, Urbana, Champaign, Illinois, Illio yearbook.

Raymond Kringer

Retired Post-Dispatch editor

Kringer

Raymond L. Kringer, a retired editor at the Post-Dispatch and former head of the St. Louis Newspaper Guild, died Thursday (June 18, 1998) at DePaul Health Center in Bridgeton of complications from a stroke. He was 92 and lived in north St. Louis County.

Mr. Kringer was the foreign editor at the Post-Dispatch when he retired in 1971. He joined the newspaper in 1950 as a copy editor and a year later became assistant foreign editor. He was promoted to foreign editor in 1969.

He served as president of the St. Louis Newspaper Guild in 1941 and 1942 and from 1948 to 1953. He also served in several other capacities as a Guild representative, including contract negotiator.

Mr. Kringer was born in a farmhouse near Hagarstown, Ill. He began his journalistic career in high school, spending his summers working as a printer's apprentice for the Vandalia (Ill.) Leader, a weekly newspaper. After graduating from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, he became a reporter for the Decatur (Ill.) Herald and was subsequently appointed state and telegraph editor of that newspaper.

In 1937, he started working for the old St. Louis Star Times and later became chief copy editor before joining the Post-Dispatch.

In World War II, he served as a cryptographer in the Army Air Forces in India. He received two Bronze Stars for service.

Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday at Math Herman and Son Funeral Home, 10212 Halls Ferry Road. The funeral service will be at noon Tuesday at the funeral home. Burial will at the McInturff Cemetery in Vandalia.

He was married for 58 years to Edna Frances Harris Kringer; she died in 1994.

There are no immediate survivors.

Raymond L. Kringer obituary, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri · Sunday, June 21, 1998, page 33

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Photo added by Anna Schultz

Raymond Lincoln Kringer

BIRTH 8 Jan 1906

DEATH 18 Jun 1998 (aged 92)

BURIAL McInturff Cemetery
Hagarstown, Fayette County, Illinois, USA Add to Map

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